"FF continues to be the wackiest and most compelling comic series on the stands."
— ComicVine.com
FF
FAMILY FREAKOUT
FRACTION
M. ALLRED
MARVEL NOW!
L. ALLRED
QUINONES

"It's great to see the creators emphasize humor and the younger characters and their antics even as they maneuver the adults into the confrontation that's been building for the past year." — IGN.com

IT'S FUN FUN FUN — UNTIL DR. DOOM ARRIVES TO DESTROY THEM ALL!

As the kids in the FF start growing apart, their adult supervision seems to be having some issues of their own. And when Dr. Doom ascends and the Council of Dooms girds for battle, it's the eve of a war between the Future Foundation and Latveria. But is it also the beginning of the end for the fractious FF? Think about it — four stand-in replacement heroes and a dozen kids vs. Dr. Doom, now transformed into the ultimate power in the universe: Doom the Annihilating Conqueror! Do the math — that's game over, man! Plus: Spooky kids! Hulk vs. Thing! Pool party! Impossibletown! The horrible secret of Underspace! Two students transfer in at the best worst moment imaginable! And what's with Old John Storm, anyway?

Collecting *FF (2012) #9-16* — written by Matt Fraction and Lee Allred, and illustrated by Mike Allred and Joe Quinones.

T

MARVEL

"FF *continues to be the wackiest and most compelling comic series on the stands.*"
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FF™

FAMILY FREAKOUT

FRACTION
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SHARE YOUR UNIVERSE

MATT FRACTION
JOE QUINONES
LAURA ALLRED

009

THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

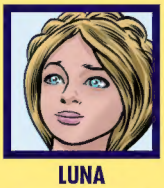
While away on their cosmic family vacation, the Fantastic Four left the young and brilliant children of the Future Foundation in the care of Ant-Man, Darla Deering, Medusa and She-Hulk, and promised to return after exactly four Earth minutes.

They still have not returned.

As the FF continued to wonder where in all of space-time the Fantastic Four could possibly be, the gang fended off all manner of shenanigans in their stead. From a crazed old John Storm from the future to an unfortunate field trip into the Negative Zone courtesy of the Wizard, the family's held together so far. But the question remains: where are the Fantastic Four???

ALEX POWER

AHURA


LUNA

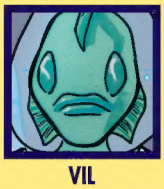
LEECH

ARTIE MADDICKS

BENTLEY-23

DRAGON MAN

ONOME


VIL

WU

MIK

KORR

TURG

TONG

LAST SPLASH

MATT FRACTION
writer

JOE QUINONES
artist

LAURA ALLRED
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer

MICHAEL & LAURA ALLRED
cover artists

JAKE THOMAS
assistant editor

TOM BREVOORT
editor

AXEL ALONSO
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
executive producer

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
lifeguards on duty

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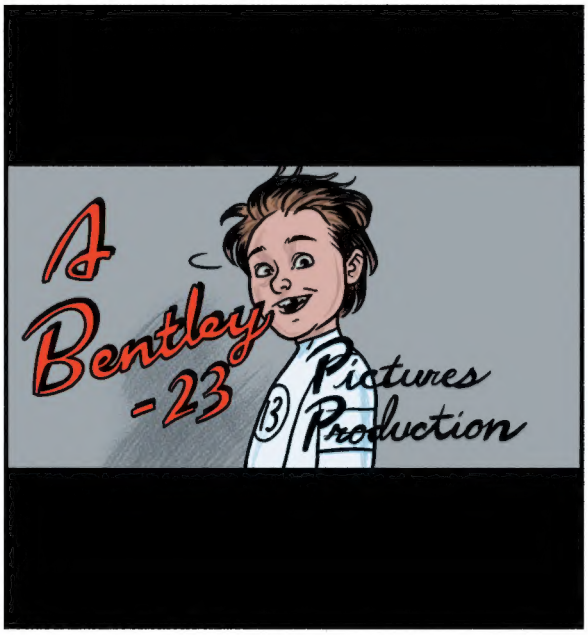
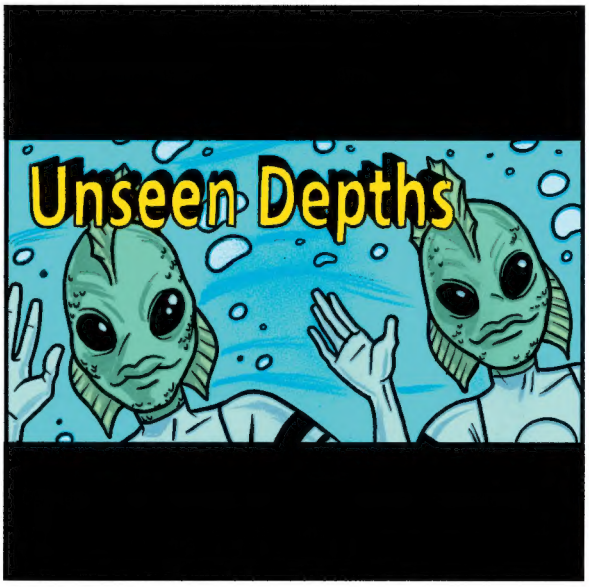
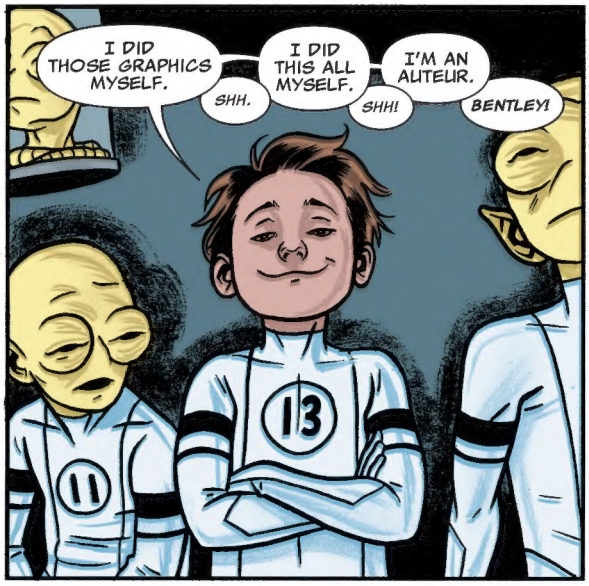

A Bentley-23 Pictures Production

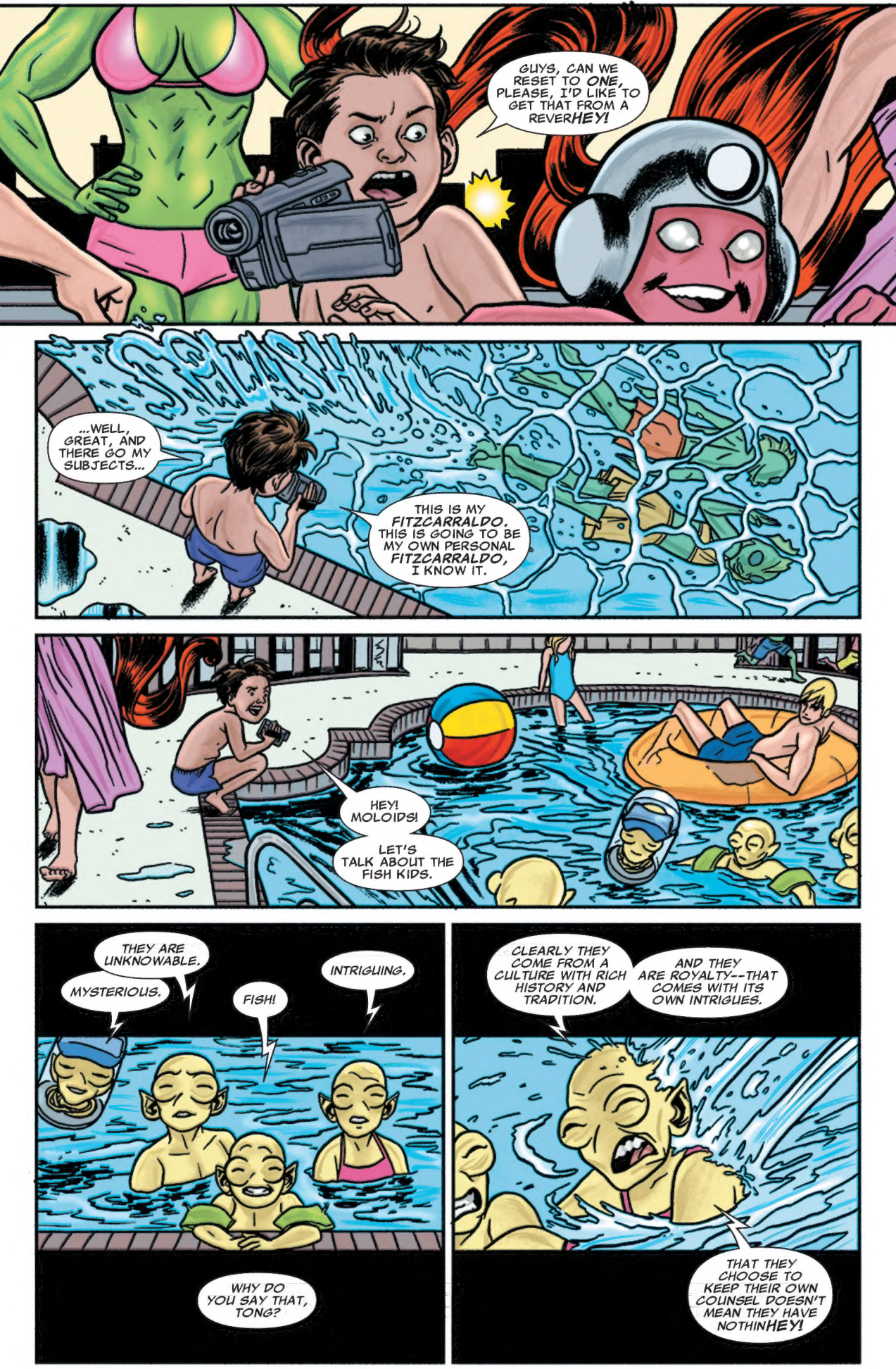
The FUTURE FOUNDATION in

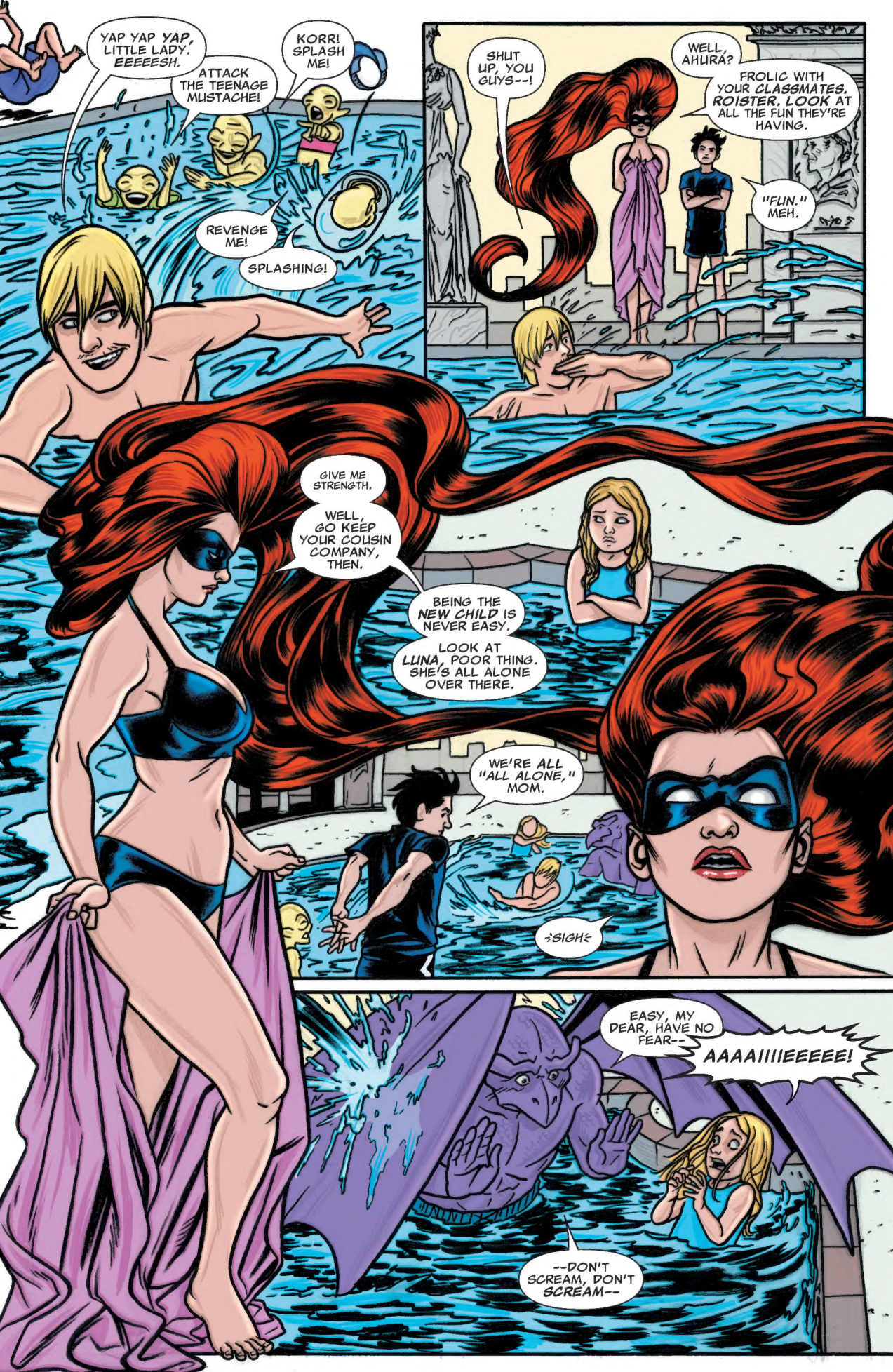

Unseen Depths

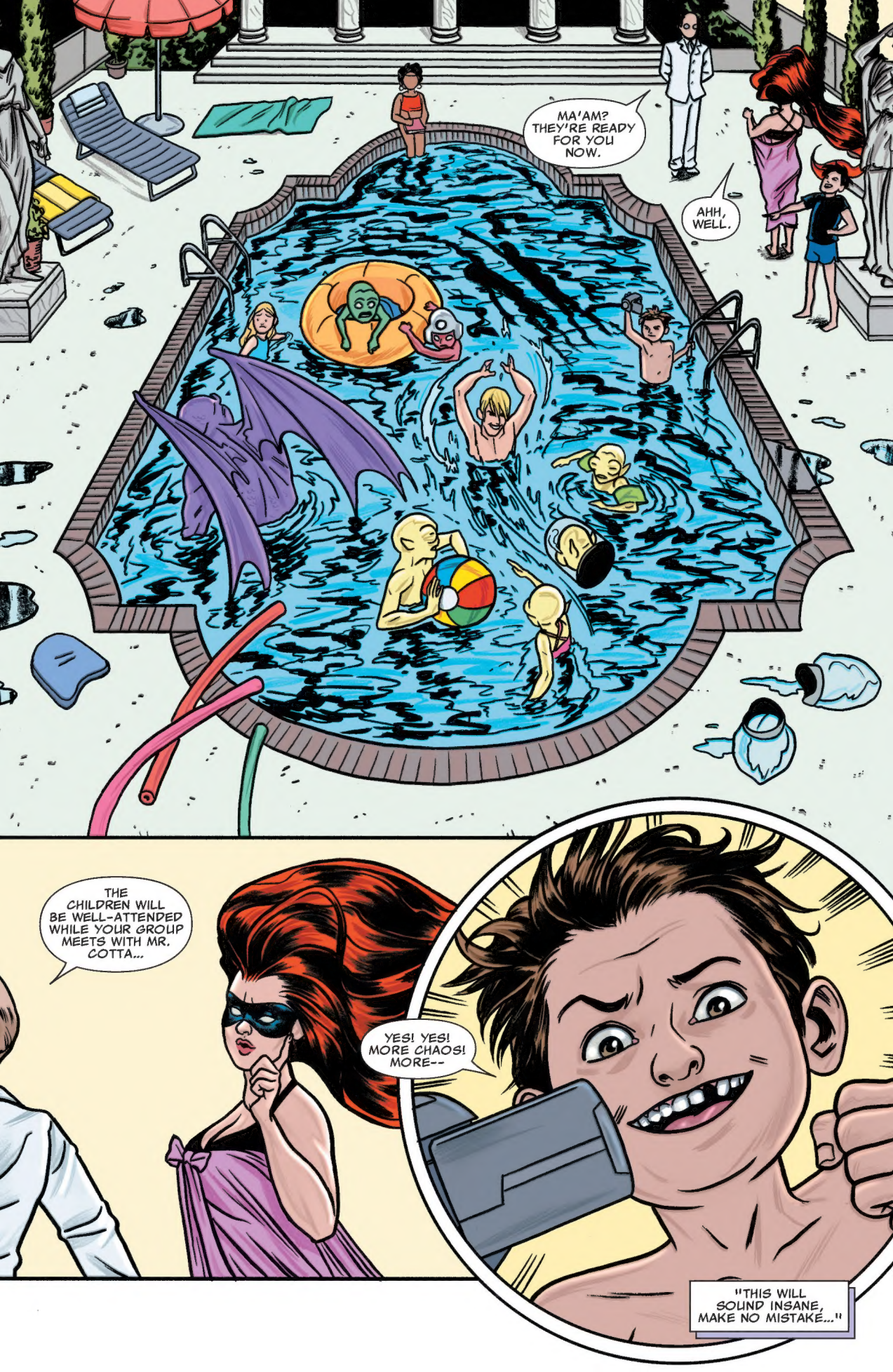

I DID THOSE GRAPHICS MYSELF.
SHH.
I DID THIS ALL MYSELF.
SHH!
I'M AN AUTEUR.
BENTLEY!

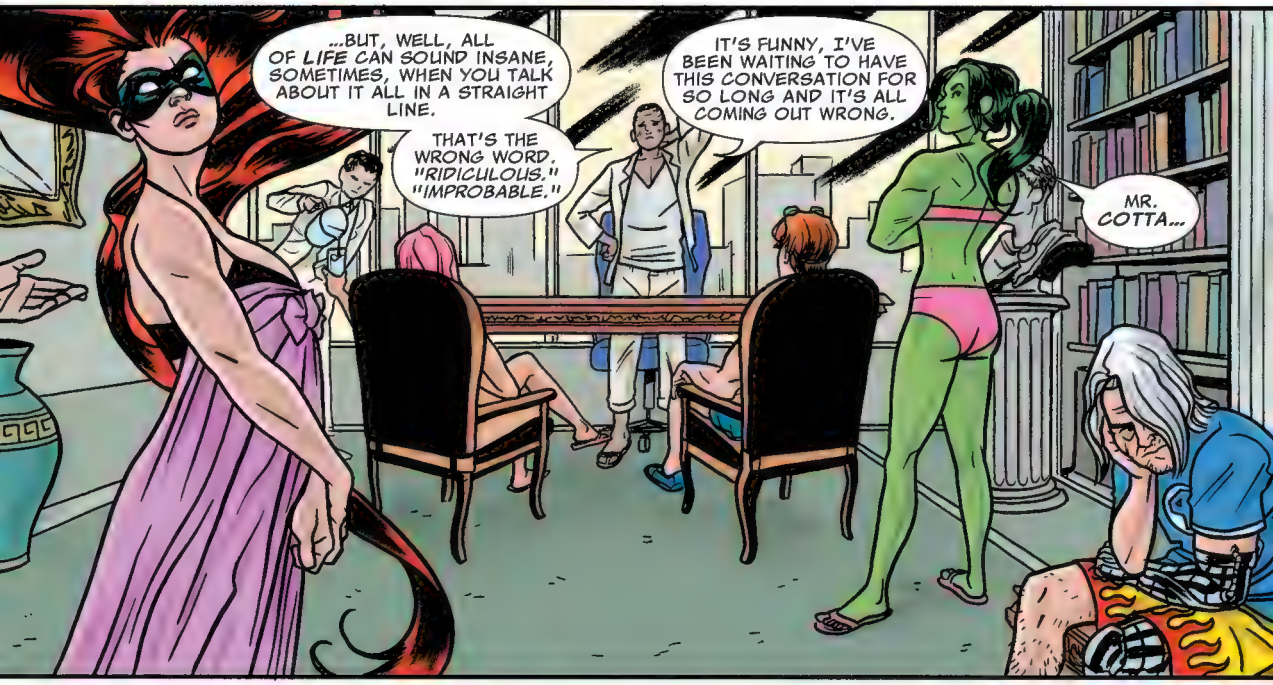
OH, HELLO, I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE. I'M BENTLEY-23. WELCOME TO MY FILM.
HERZOG
WHEN MS. WALTERS ASSIGNED US TO MAKE A PROJECT ABOUT A FELLOW CLASSMATE, I KNEW THERE WAS ONE OPTION:
THE UHARI.
THEY'RE QUIET. THEY'RE INTROVERTED. THEY SWIM A LOT. WE ALL SO EASILY DISMISSED THEM AS "THE FISH KIDS." AND YET...
...THEY RECENTLY SUMMONED FORTH THEIR PERSONAL BODYGUARD TO SAVE THE LOWER EAST SIDE FROM BURNING UP AFTER THE CRAZY HOBO MR. LANG ADOPTED WENT CRAY-CRAY.
I WONDERED, COULD THIS BE A METAPHOR? WHEN ONE REGARDS THE UHARI, ARE THERE...
Unseen Depths
...TO OUR FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES?
I DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE.
DOES ANYBODY KNOW A "CHARLES COTTA"?
OH, YEAH, OKAY, THERE'S THE LOGO, SURE.
THE C.E.O. GUY? JULIAN ENTERPRISES?
HE'S...KIND OF AN IMPORTANT GUY IN THE WORLD OF IMPORTANT GUYS, SCOTT. WHY?
JVLIAN ENTERPRISES
cordially invites you,
THE FVTVRE FOVNDATIO
to a pool party.
HE'S INVITED US OVER TO HIS PLACE FOR A POOL PARTY.

AH! THE FUTURE FOUNDATION. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR RESPONDING TO MY INVITATION.
WELCOME TO THE WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF JULIAN ENTERPRISES.
UM...
THANKS?
WE'S TOLD POOL PARTY?
OF COURSE, YOUNG MAN! STEP RIGHT THIS--
--WAY--
POOL PARTY!
JULIAN ENTERPRISE


GUYS, CAN WE RESET TO ONE, PLEASE, I'D LIKE TO GET THAT FROM A REVERHEY!
...WELL, GREAT, AND THERE GO MY SUBJECTS...
THIS IS MY FITZCARRALDO. THIS IS GOING TO BE MY OWN PERSONAL FITZCARRALDO, I KNOW IT.
HEY! MOLOIDS!
LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FISH KIDS.
THEY ARE UNKNOWABLE.
MYSTERIOUS.
FISH!
INTRIGUING.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT, TONG?
CLEARLY THEY COME FROM A CULTURE WITH RICH HISTORY AND TRADITION.
AND THEY ARE ROYALTY--THAT COMES WITH ITS OWN INTRIGUES.
THAT THEY CHOOSE TO KEEP THEIR OWN COUNSEL DOESN'T MEAN THEY HAVE NOTHINHEY!

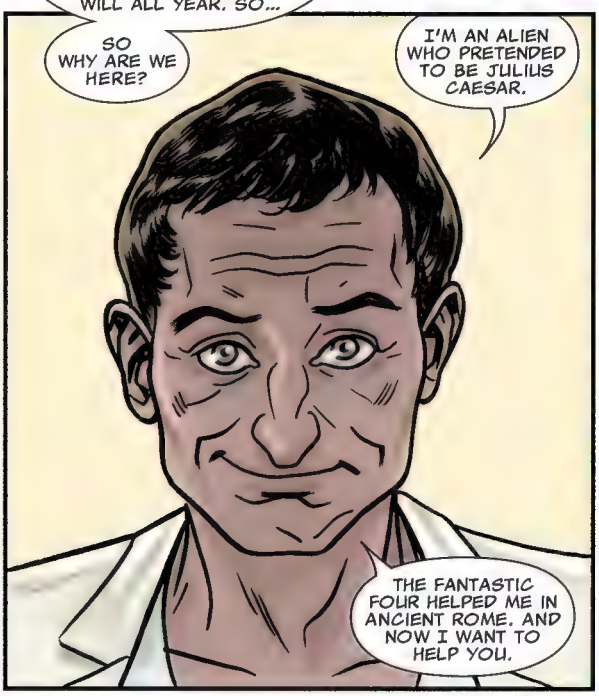

YAP YAP YAP, LITTLE LADY. EEEEESH.
ATTACK THE TEENAGE MUSTACHE!
KORR! SPLASH ME!
REVENGE ME!
SPLASHING!
SHUT UP, YOU GUYS--!
WELL, AHURA?
FROLIC WITH YOUR CLASSMATES, ROISTER. LOOK AT ALL THE FUN THEY'RE HAVING.
"FUN." MEH.
GIVE ME STRENGTH.
WELL, GO KEEP YOUR COUSIN COMPANY, THEN.
BEING THE NEW CHILD IS NEVER EASY.
LOOK AT LUNA, POOR THING. SHE'S ALL ALONE OVER THERE.
WE'RE ALL "ALL ALONE," MOM.
SIGH
EASY, MY DEAR, HAVE NO FEAR--
AAAAIIIIEEEEEE!
--DON'T SCREAM, DON'T SCREAM--

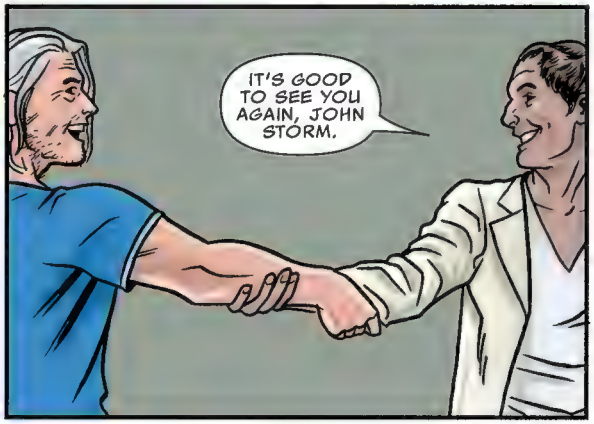

MA'AM? THEY'RE READY FOR YOU NOW.
AHH, WELL.
THE CHILDREN WILL BE WELL-ATTENDED WHILE YOUR GROUP MEETS WITH MR. COTTA...
YES! YES! MORE CHAOS! MORE--
"THIS WILL SOUND INSANE, MAKE NO MISTAKE..."


...BUT, WELL, ALL OF LIFE CAN SOUND INSANE, SOMETIMES, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT IT ALL IN A STRAIGHT LINE.
THAT'S THE WRONG WORD. "RIDICULOUS." "IMPROBABLE."
IT'S FUNNY, I'VE BEEN WAITING TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION FOR SO LONG AND IT'S ALL COMING OUT WRONG.
MR. COTTA...

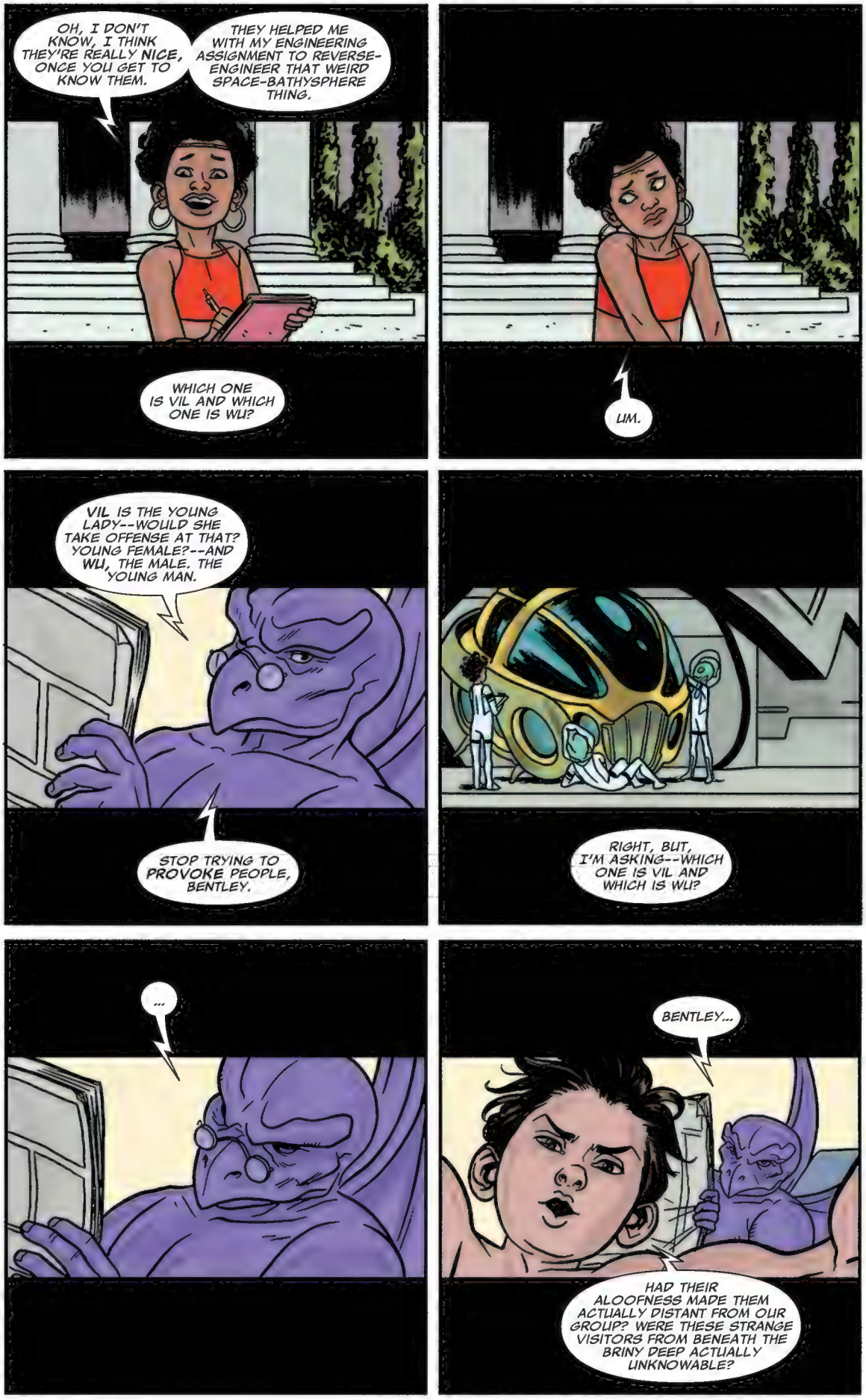
...THANK YOU, FIRST OFF, FOR THE INVITATION. WE CAN BE A HANDFUL.
SECOND--WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE. WE KNOW WHAT YOU AND YOUR COMPANY ARE WORTH. YOU'VE JUST MADE MORE MONEY IN THE TIME IT TOOK ME TO SAY THIS SENTENCE THAN WE WILL ALL YEAR. SO...

OH, YEAH. "IT WAS BEFORE MY TIME."
I REMEMBER THIS GUY.

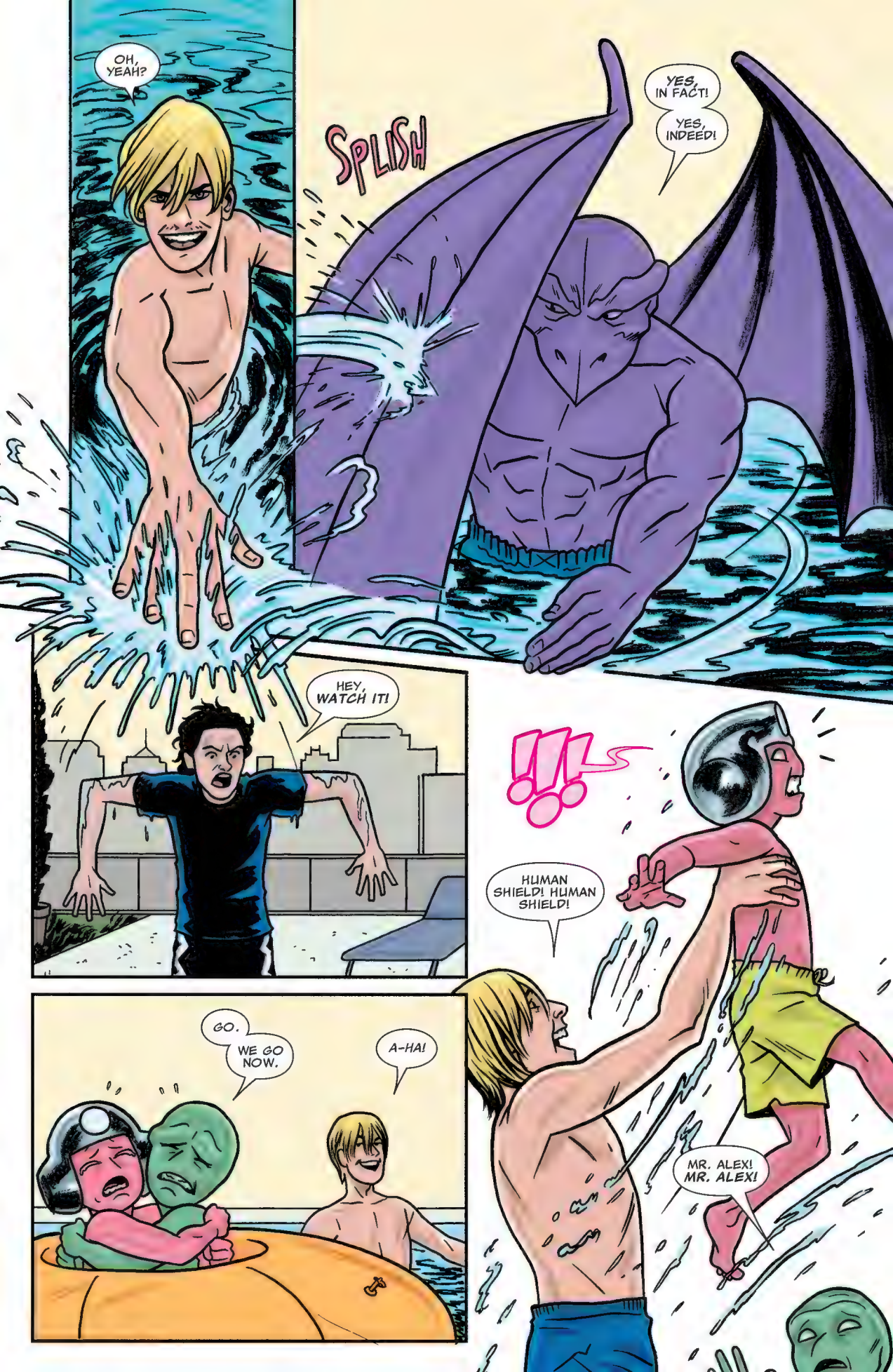

SO WHY ARE WE HERE?
I'M AN ALIEN WHO PRETENDED TO BE JULIUS CAESAR.
THE FANTASTIC FOUR HELPED ME IN ANCIENT ROME. AND NOW I WANT TO HELP YOU.

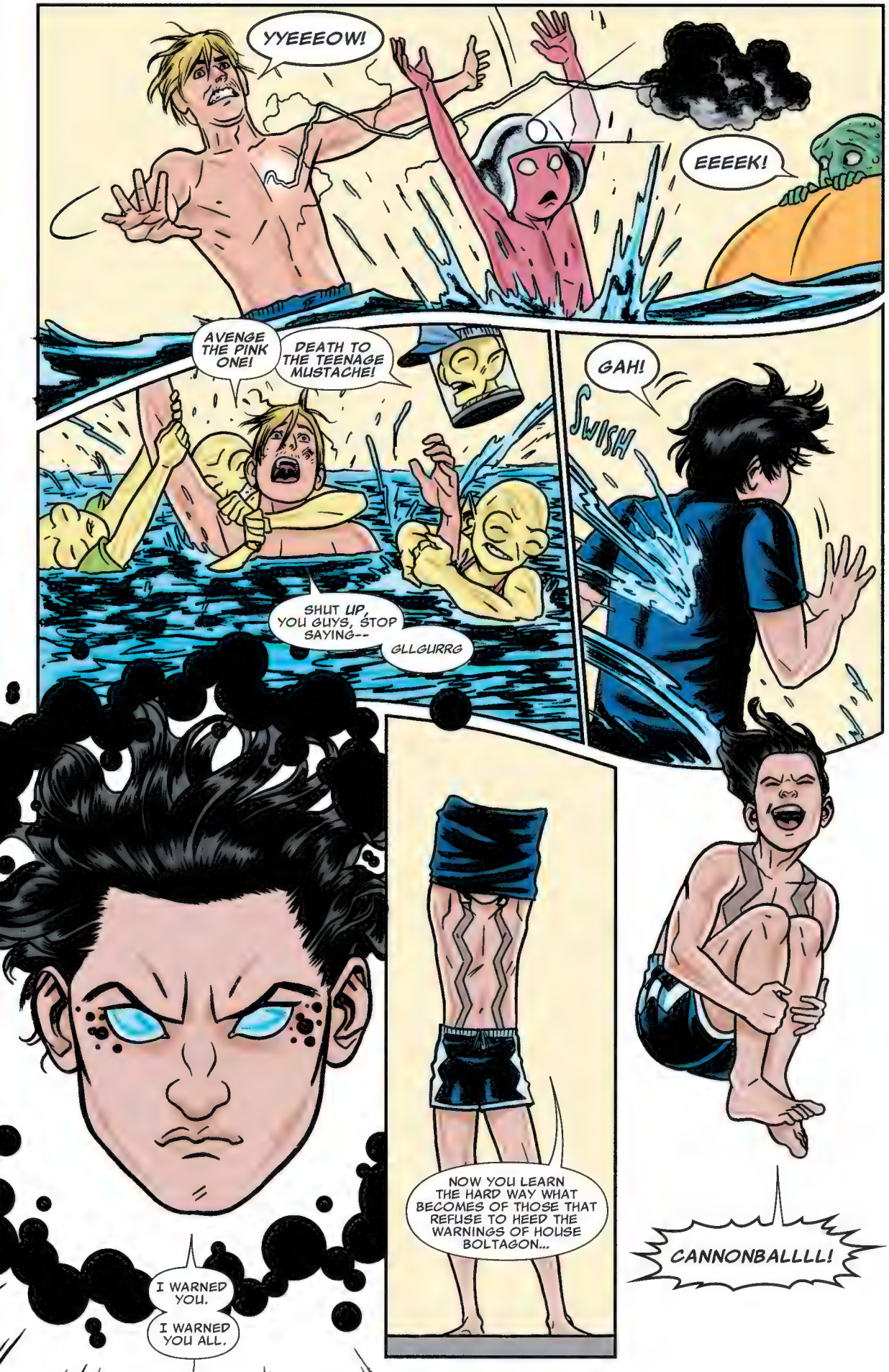

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JOHN STORM.

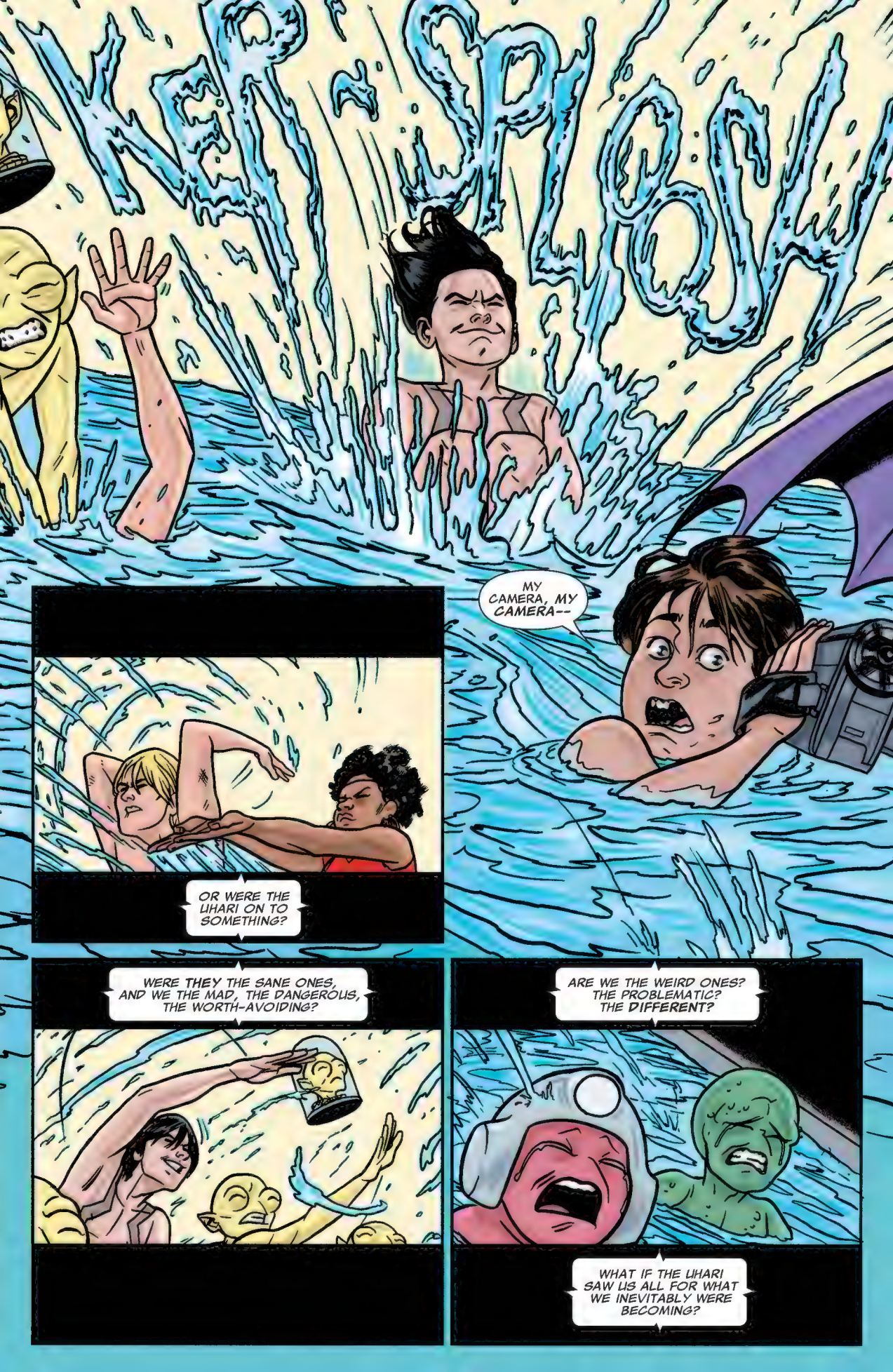
I'M SORRY, JULIUS CAESAR? CAME-SAW-CONQUERED, IDES OF MARCH?
THIS IS A LOT OF SUNSCREEN AND COSTUME CHANGES FOR A WASTE OF TIME, MAN...
I'M GETTING TRIPPED UP ON THE ALIEN PART. SPACE-ALIEN ALIEN?
YOUR SKEPTICISM IS EXPECTED. HERE--
--MY SPACETIME SHIP. AS FOR MY IDENTITY... TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, TAKE JOHN STORM'S, OR SIMPLY DON'T.
ULTIMATELY, IT MATTERS NOT...
WOW.
I SUSPECT WE MISS THE GREATER POINT.
WHO THIS BEING IS AND WHERE HE COMES FROM CAN BE VERIFIED, BUT...
BUT I'VE SEEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR AFTER THEY LEFT THIS ANCHORPOINT IN TIME AND SPACE. AND I OWE THEM MY LIFE.
SO I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU FIND THEM.

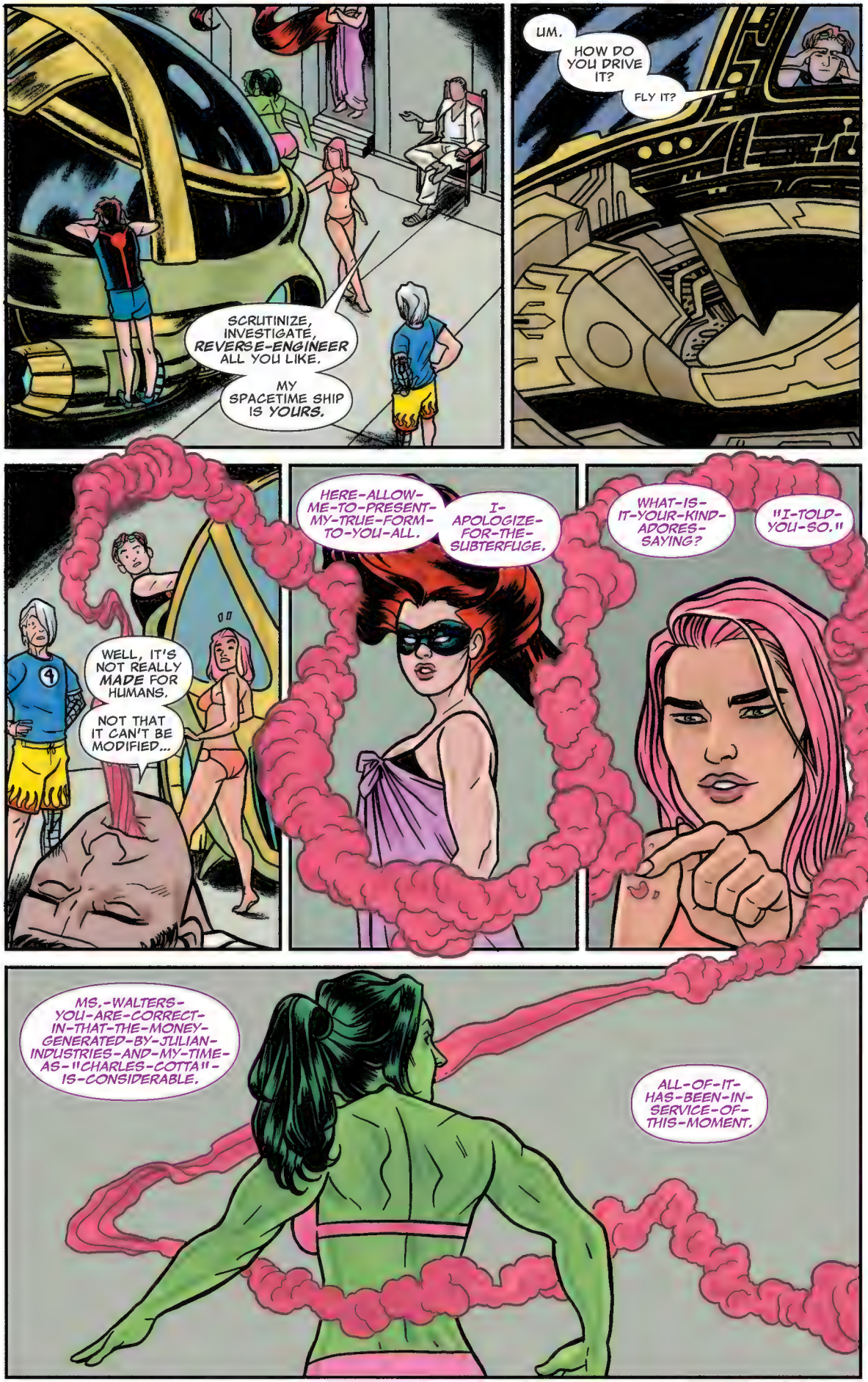

OH, I DON'T KNOW, I THINK THEY'RE REALLY NICE, ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM.
THEY HELPED ME WITH MY ENGINEERING ASSIGNMENT TO REVERSE-ENGINEER THAT WEIRD SPACE-BATHYSPHERE THING.
WHICH ONE IS VIL AND WHICH ONE IS WU?
UM.
VIL IS THE YOUNG LADY--WOULD SHE TAKE OFFENSE AT THAT? YOUNG FEMALE?--AND WU, THE MALE. THE YOUNG MAN.
STOP TRYING TO PROVOKE PEOPLE, BENTLEY.
RIGHT, BUT, I'M ASKING--WHICH ONE IS VIL AND WHICH IS WU?
...
BENTLEY...
HAD THEIR ALOOFNESS MADE THEM ACTUALLY DISTANT FROM OUR GROUP? WERE THESE STRANGE VISITORS FROM BENEATH THE BRINY DEEP ACTUALLY UNKNOWABLE?

WHUH.
WHAT.
WHAT WOULD...
HERZOG DO.
WHAT WOULD HERZOG DO?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
THE GREEN-FLESHED GIANTESS TASKED US ALL TO LEARN OF ANOTHER CULTURE, YES?
WELL, THE TINY VILLAIN CHOSE OUR CULTURE.
THEY SHOULD LOOK AT THEMSELVES, PERHAPS.
THEY FALL APART AND DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE IT YET...
OH, IT'S ON NOW, YOU LITTLE FREAKS--

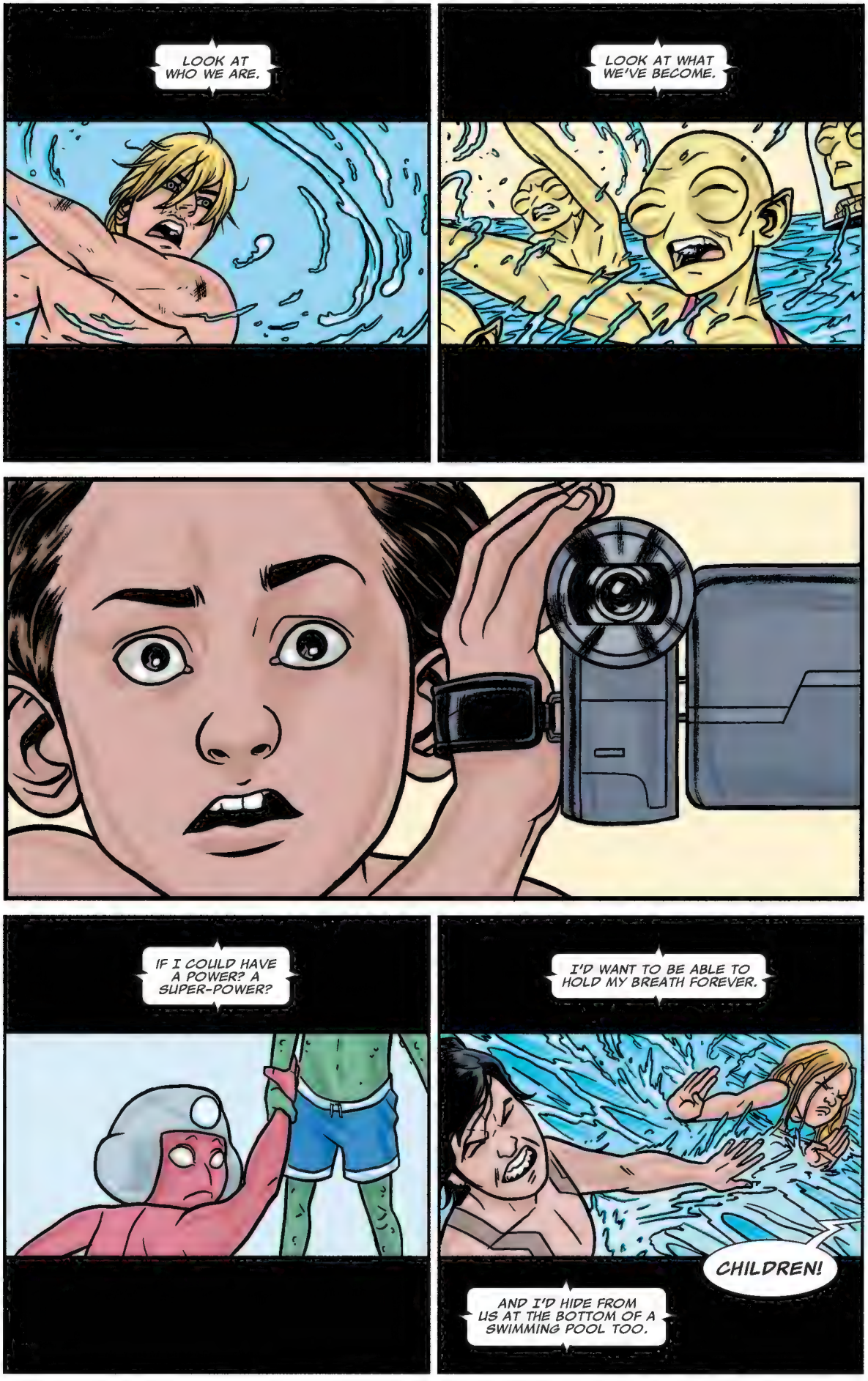

OH, YEAH?
SPLISH
YES, IN FACT!
YES, INDEED!
HEY, WATCH IT!
!!!
HUMAN SHIELD! HUMAN SHIELD!
GO.
WE GO NOW.
A-HA!
MR. ALEX! MR. ALEX!

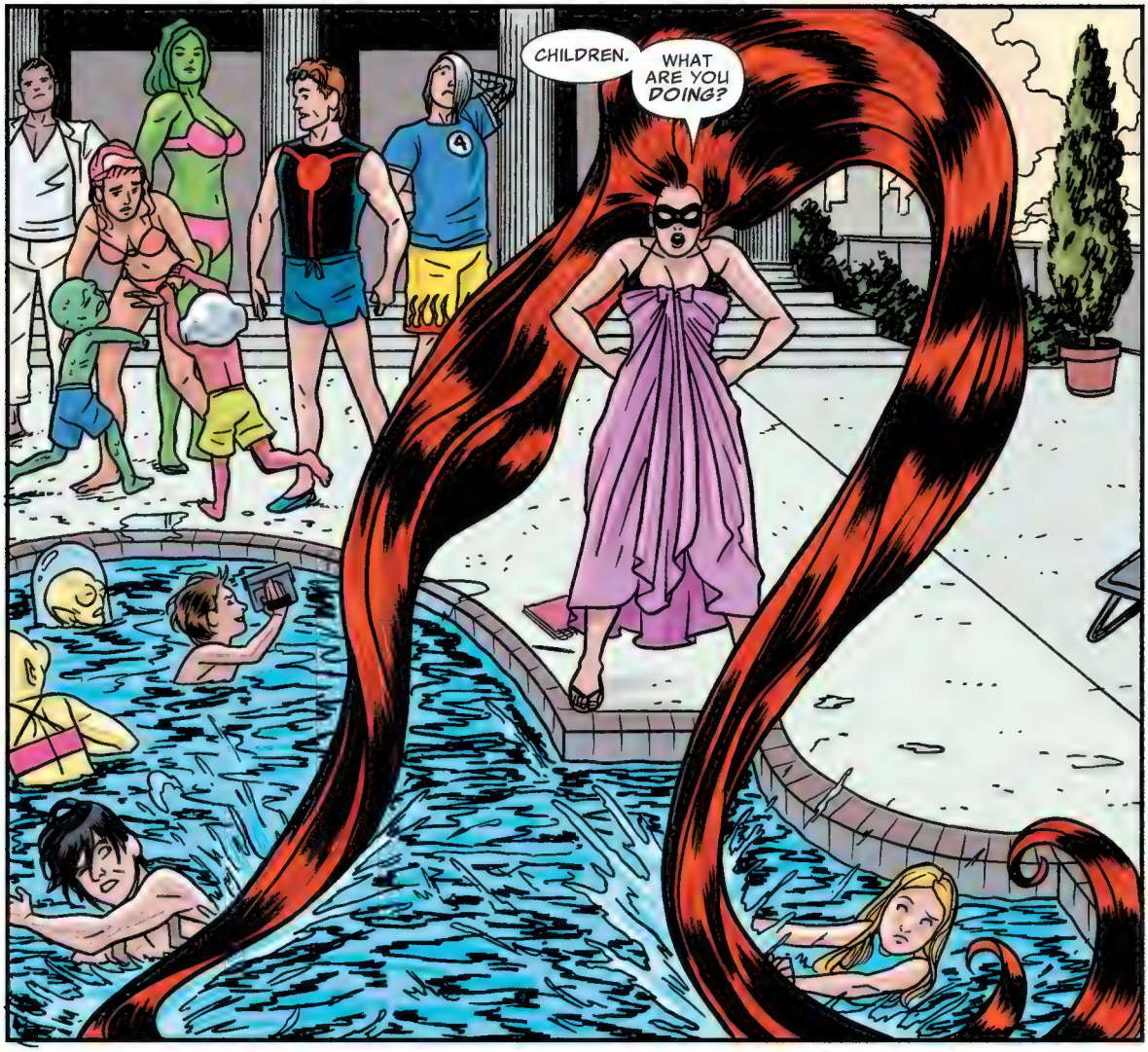

YYEEEOW!
EEEEK!
AVENGE THE PINK ONE!
DEATH TO THE TEENAGE MUSTACHE!
GAH!
SWISH
SHUT UP, YOU GUYS, STOP SAYING--
GLLGURRG
I WARNED YOU.
I WARNED YOU ALL.
NOW YOU LEARN THE HARD WAY WHAT BECOMES OF THOSE THAT REFUSE TO HEED THE WARNINGS OF HOUSE BOLTAGON...
CANNONBALLLL!


KER-SPLOSH
MY CAMERA, MY CAMERA--
OR WERE THE UHARI ON TO SOMETHING?
WERE THEY THE SANE ONES, AND WE THE MAD, THE DANGEROUS, THE WORTH-AVOIDING?
ARE WE THE WEIRD ONES? THE PROBLEMATIC? THE DIFFERENT?
WHAT IF THE UHARI SAW US ALL FOR WHAT WE INEVITABLY WERE BECOMING?

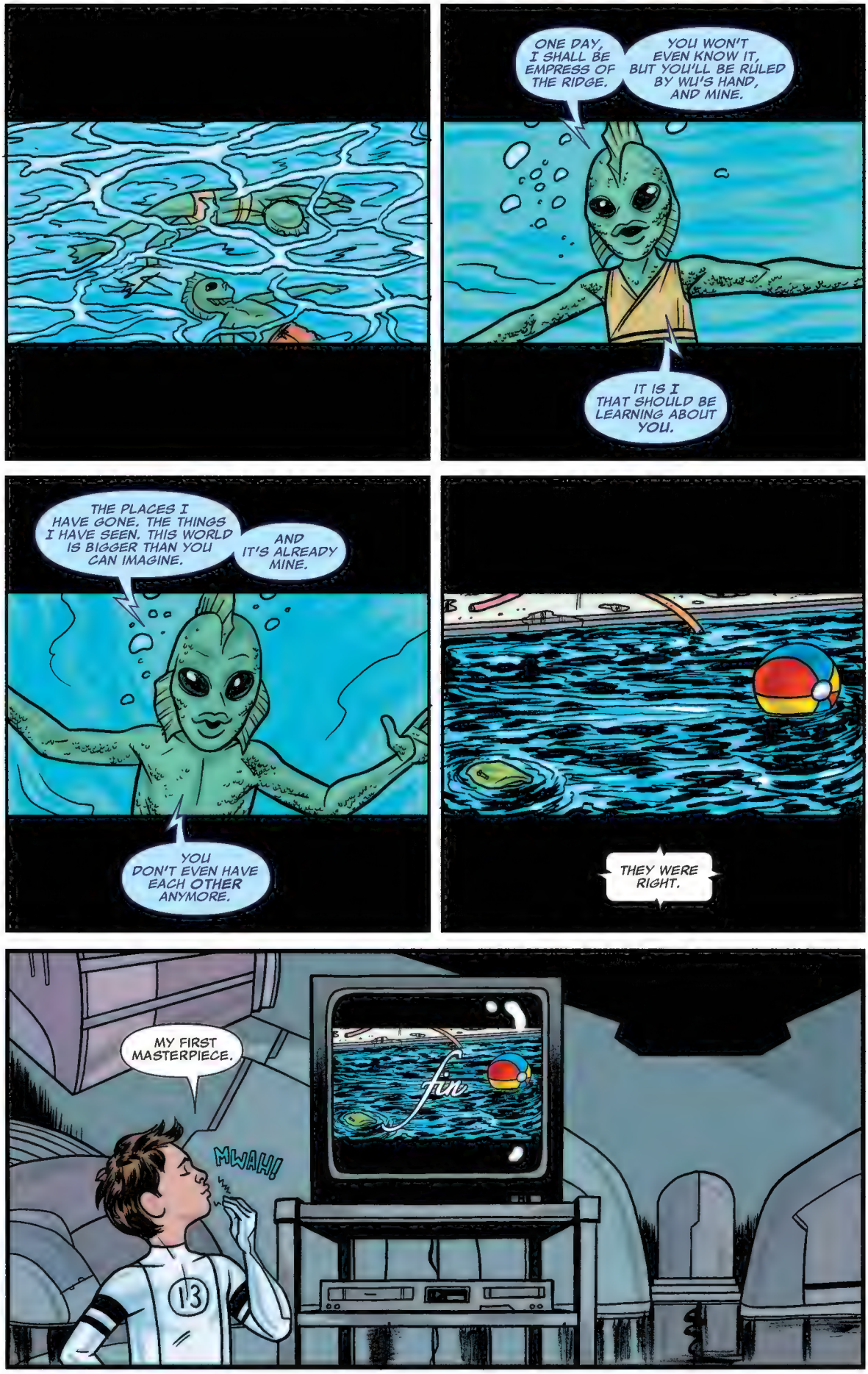

SCRUTINIZE, INVESTIGATE, REVERSE-ENGINEER ALL YOU LIKE.
MY SPACETIME SHIP IS YOURS.
UM.
HOW DO YOU DRIVE IT?
FLY IT?
WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY MADE FOR HUMANS.
NOT THAT IT CAN'T BE MODIFIED...
HERE-ALLOW-ME-TO-PRESENT-MY-TRUE-FORM-TO-YOU-ALL.
I-APOLOGIZE-FOR-THE-SUBTERFUGE.
WHAT-IS-IT-YOUR-KIND-ADORES-SAYING?
"I-TOLD-YOU-SO."
MS.-WALTERS-YOU-ARE-CORRECT-IN-THAT-THE-MONEY-GENERATED-BY-JULIAN-INDUSTRIES-AND-MY-TIME-AS-"CHARLES-COTTA"-IS-CONSIDERABLE.
ALL-OF-IT-HAS-BEEN-IN-SERVICE-OF-THIS-MOMENT.

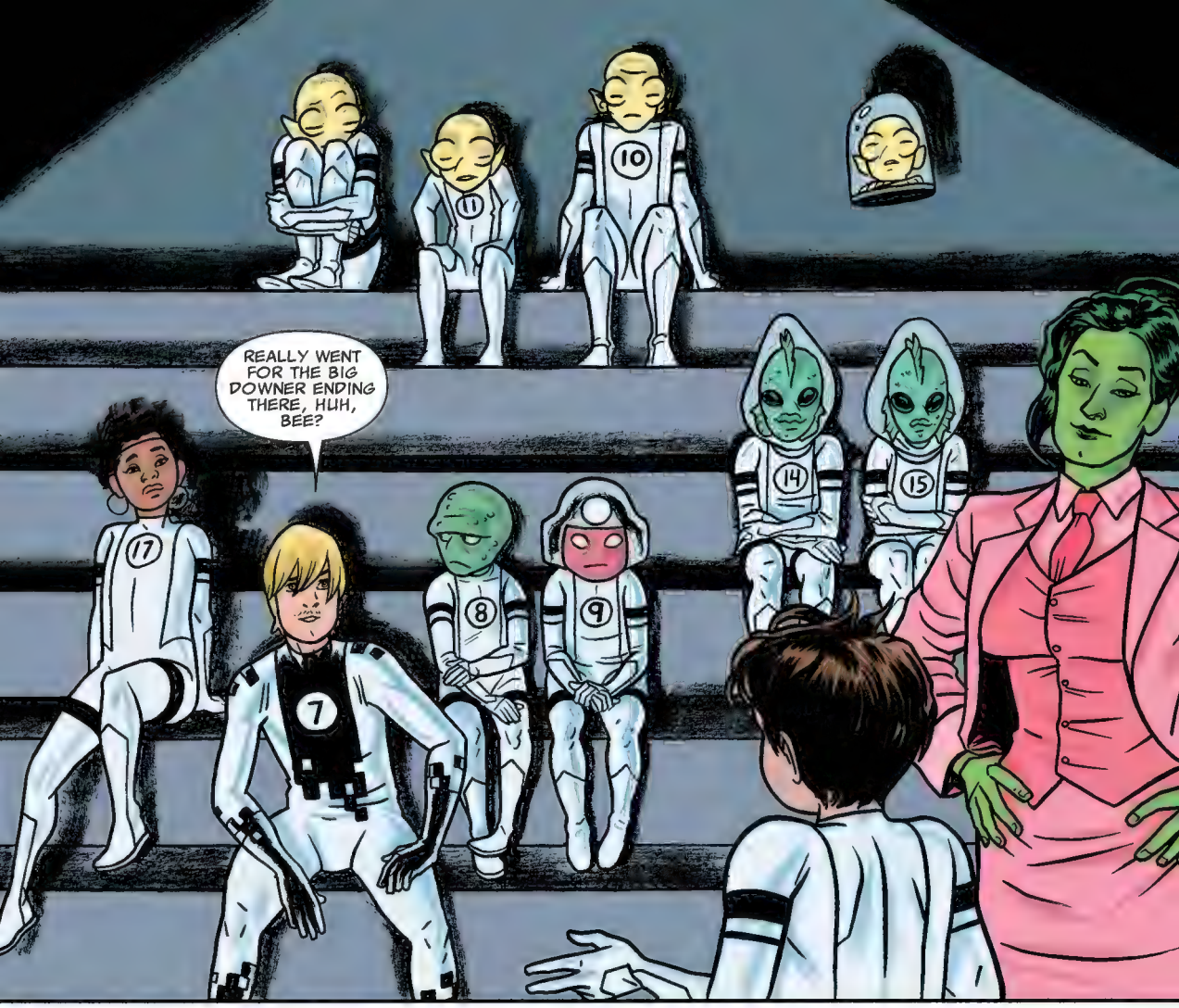
YOUR-FRIENDS-ARE-ADRIFT-IN-SPACE-AND-TIME.
THEIR-BODIES-BETRAY-THEM.
THEY-HELPED-ME-ONCE-ALL-THE-SAME.
WHAT DO YOU IMPLY, MISTY STRANGER?
WELL-FIRST-AS-I-HAVE-BEEN-ALIVE-ON-EARTH-THOUSANDS-OF-YEARS-I-WOULD-LIKE-TO-VOLUNTEER-MY-SERVICES-AS-INSTRUCTOR-OF-HISTORY-TO-THE-FUTURE-FOUNDATION.
MORE-IMPORTANTLY...
THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE MY FRIENDS. MY FRIENDS ARE YOUR FRIENDS.
AND OUR FRIENDS ARE IN TROUBLE.
SO WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO?
WELL, DUE TO THE...UNIQUENESS... OF MY SITUATION, I CANNOT REENTER THE TIMESTREAM AS A FREE-ROAMING AGENT.
BUT YOU FIVE MOST CERTAINLY CAN.

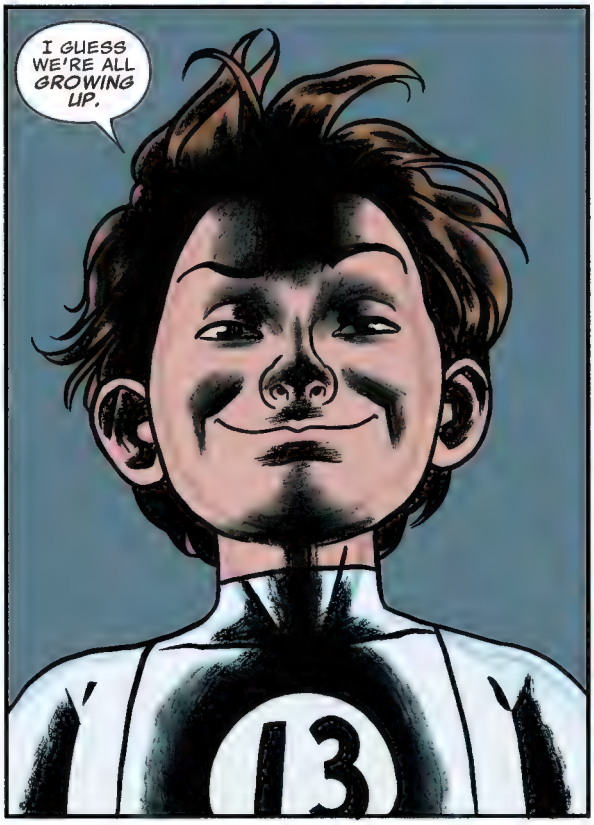

LOOK AT WHO WE ARE.
LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE BECOME.
IF I COULD HAVE A POWER? A SUPER-POWER?
I'D WANT TO BE ABLE TO HOLD MY BREATH FOREVER.
CHILDREN!
AND I'D HIDE FROM US AT THE BOTTOM OF A SWIMMING POOL TOO.

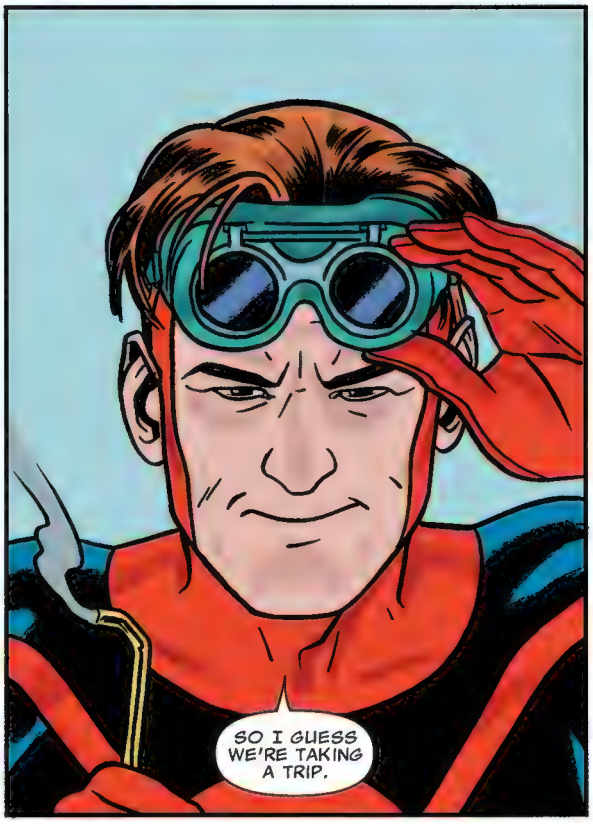

CHILDREN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EVERYBODY OUT OF THE POOL. PLAYTIME'S OVER.


ONE DAY, I SHALL BE EMPRESS OF THE RIDGE.
YOU WON'T EVEN KNOW IT, BUT YOU'LL BE RULED BY WU'S HAND, AND MINE.
IT IS I THAT SHOULD BE LEARNING ABOUT YOU.
THE PLACES I HAVE GONE. THE THINGS I HAVE SEEN. THIS WORLD IS BIGGER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
AND IT'S ALREADY MINE.
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE EACH OTHER ANYMORE.
THEY WERE RIGHT.
MY FIRST MASTERPIECE.
MWAH!
fin
13


REALLY WENT FOR THE BIG DOWNER ENDING THERE, HUH, BEE?


I GUESS WE'RE ALL GROWING UP.


SO I GUESS WE'RE TAKING A TRIP.

LET'S RESCUE THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

While it'll be in your rear-view mirror by the time you read this, Memorial Day is in the offing for those of us here at FF headquarters! So as we make all due haste to wrestle your favorite comics periodicals to the printer in this shortened week, let's turn the rest of this page over to your fellow Marvelites and see what's shaking:

Dear Matt and Gang,

Thanks so much for FF #3!!! Wow, you can't go wrong with the Yancy Street Gang and Wyatt Wingfoot. It has been so long since we have seen Mr. Wingfoot. I thought he had been left in Marvel limbo forever. Thanks for the great ride, Matt. Dr. Doom had best watch out for the new FF.

Scott Zachry
Newnan GA

4444

Hello,

I just wanted to quickly say that Matt Fraction's run on the Fantastic Four books is my favorite thing in comics right now. The creative teams are perfect, please keep them on for as long as possible. And as much as I'm enjoying F4, I'm amazed at how much I love FF! Keep these guys and the kids around, they are now as important to me as the six in the main title.

Anyway, thanks,
Mark Maslauskas

4444

Dear Fantastic 4 Fan Page,

I am LOVING Matt Fraction's work on both FANTASTIC FOUR and FF so far. I know it's an unpopular opinion, but I really disliked Mr. Hickman's run on the books. Things got too big, too crazy, and I feel like the focus was lost. The stories ceased to be about the characters, and instead became about the overly grandiose events that were occurring around them. Finally, Matt Fraction is taking it back to basics and truly making it about the greatest heroes in the Marvel U, nay, in all of comics. It's about FAMILY and the great adventures they share, and I'm so happy to see this important aspect brought back to the Fantastic Four. Not to mention the excellent artwork by both Mark Bagley and Michael Allred. Keep up the great work, everyone!

Dave Bertera
Agawam, MA

4444

Tom,

The talent on F4/FF is dialed in. Fraction/Bagley/Allred & Co. are doing a splendid work! FANTASTIC FOUR #3 had me laughing out loud several times. This is the FF family having amazing adventures and dealing with difficulties as only they can. And FF #3 has me really worried, both for Reed, Sue, Ben & the kids; and how the Future Foundation are going to figure out how to save the day! I'm on the edge of my seat with suspense. The World's Greatest Comic Magazine indeed! It's great to be enjoying the FF again! Thanks for a pair of great reads!

Dan Walsh

4444

What if Sue could not turn visible AND had a permanent force field with a 30 foot radius? I am guessing it would be problematic.

Just askin'.

Matt Geuther

It certainly sounds like that'd be problematic to us, Matt!

Fantastic Four Fan Page,

I am really enjoying FANTASTIC FOUR and FF under the helm of Matt Fraction. He wrote some of the best IRON MAN stories ever and his HAWKEYE is a perfect shot! I am hoping that Matt Fraction gives the Thing a real throwdown in the near future. We have not seen the Thing in a real heroic battle in a while. In fact (dare I say it?) I would like to see him finally beat the Hulk. Iron Man beat The Hulk once so why not The Thing? The Hulk and Thing have fought many times and I think it is time for Ben to finally win one. Fraction is a clever writer. Surely he can come up with a way to give Ben Grimm a victory. If not the Hulk, then how about someone like Colossus or The Red Hulk or The Abomination? C'mon, give us Ben Grimm fans what we deserve! We want a real heroic victory for Blue-eyed Benjy!

Andrew Vogt
Fort Collin, CO

Sounds good to us, Andrew! But you fans are the real editors! So tell us—who would you like to see ol' bashful Benjy put a Yancy Street hurtin' on?

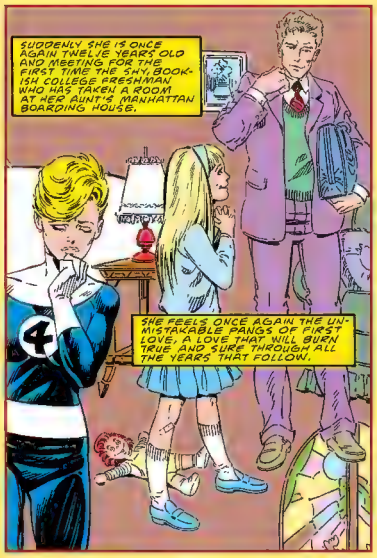
Hi

In FANTASTIC FOUR #3's letters page, a gentleman named Jim Simants, who has been reading the FF's adventures for roughly the same amount of time that I have, pleaded with you not to renumber the book and accused Marvel of not caring about the concerns of its older, longtime readers. You replied that you needed to change with the times, but that you nonetheless loved and valued those of us who'd been with you through thick and thin. Which I appreciated.

So, that being the case (and bearing in mind that readers like Jim and myself grew up with a Marvel Universe where continuity was respected and the past cherished and continually referenced) why did Matt Fraction, one issue later, feel the need to write a new version of Reed and Sue's first meeting which totally contradicted the one John Byrne gave us thirty years ago? In Byrne's version, Sue was twelve when she first laid eyes on Reed, and spent years waiting to be old enough for him to notice her. The two versions are totally incompatible and the new one certainly isn't an improvement, so why do it? You don't show respect for the past by erasing it (DC did that, and it caused me to drop their entire line after 36 years as a reader) and you don't keep longtime readers happy by discarding continuity they are invested in. I want to like this book, and for the most part I do, but things like this really spoil it for me. And they seem to be happening all too often at Marvel these days.

Tony Ingram
Suffolk, UK

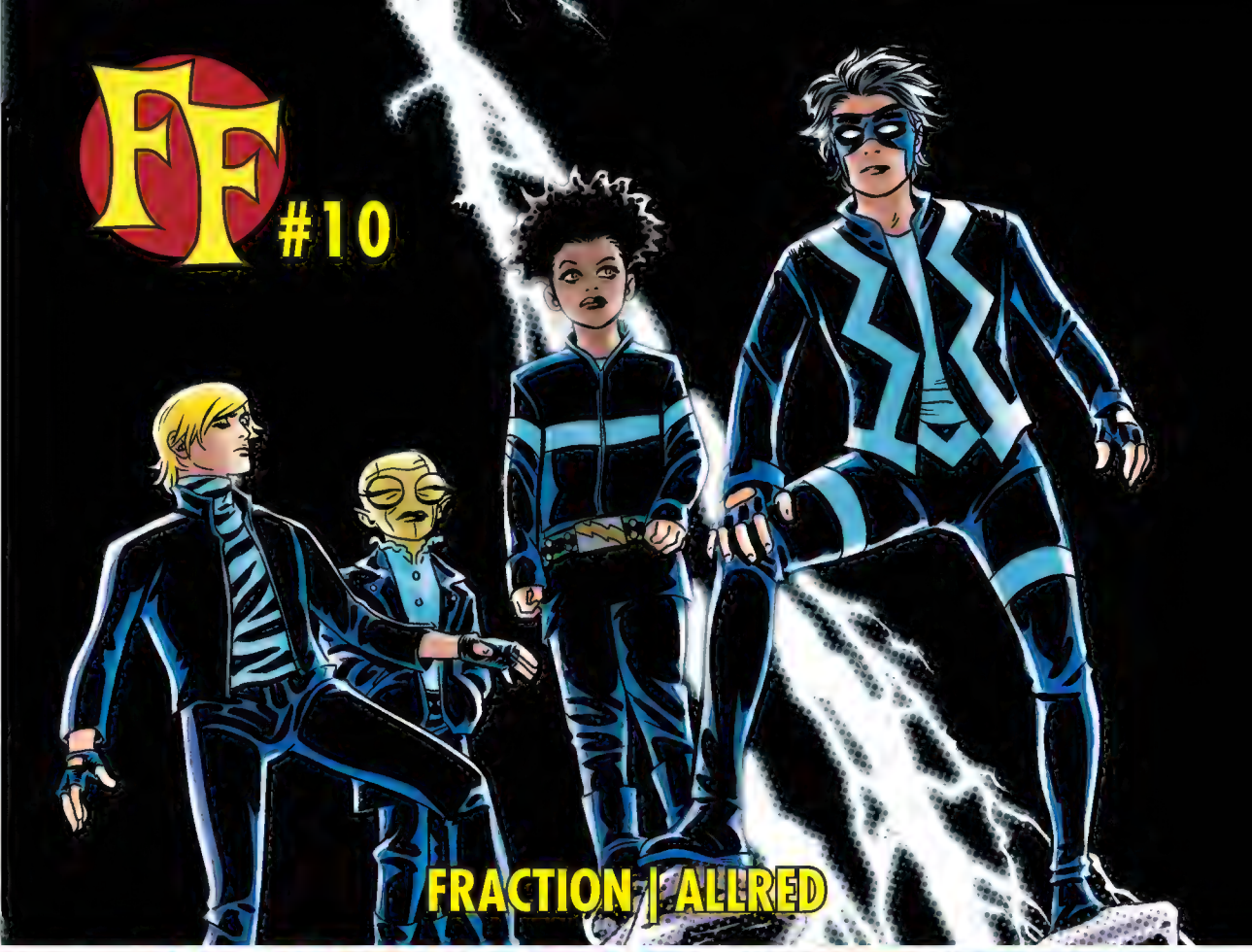
We appreciate your letter, Tony. So I want to be straight with you. While it's always our intention to respect the continuity and the past, especially with so many stories told over such a long period of time, there are going to be instances where what worked in 1985, or 1975, or 1965, doesn't work as well in 2013.


SUDDENLY SHE IS ONCE AGAIN TWELVE YEARS OLD AND MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE SHY, BOOKISH COLLEGE FRESHMAN WHO HAS TAKEN A ROOM AT HER AUNT'S MANHATTAN BOARDING HOUSE.
SHE FEELS ONCE AGAIN THE UNMISTAKABLE PANGS OF FIRST LOVE, A LOVE THAT WILL BURN TRUE AND SURE THROUGH ALL THE YEARS THAT FOLLOW.

Looking back on that story you reference when Matt and I were doing research for FANTASTIC FOUR #4, that sequence struck the both of us, in 21st century terms, as being more than a little bit creepy. So we made a conscious decision to modify and update it somewhat, keeping the essence of the situation the same (Reed meets Sue while he's in college, and boarding at Sue's Aunt's house) but discarding the inappropriateness of a college-age man eyeing a twelve-year-old girl. (It's not the first time this sort of updating has happened in Marvel history—Byrne's scene overwrites earlier mentions in the Stan and Jack era that Sue was the girl-next-door that Reed left behind when he went away to serve with the O.S.S. in WWII, which can no longer be true in either 1985 or 2013.)

Tom B
5/20/13

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can e-mail it to us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!


FF
#10
FRACTION | ALLRED

FANTASTIC FOUR
#11
FRACTION | BAGLEY

SHARE YOUR UNIVERSE

MATT FRACTION
MICHAEL ALLRED
LAURA ALLRED

010

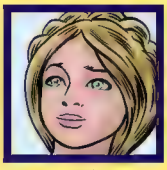
THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

While away on their cosmic family vacation, the Fantastic Four left the young and brilliant children of the Future Foundation in the care of Ant-Man, Darla Deering, Medusa and She-Hulk. Soon after the Fantastic Four left, a scarred, traumatized older John Storm returned, claiming the team had all died. Things continued to go about as well.

After Old Johnny tried to light New York on fire, the FF began to doubt both his identity and stability. Alex Power was forced to spy on his team after Doctor Doom kidnapped his parents. What happened to the Fantastic Four remains a mystery. Can the FF handle an unstable Human Torch, a mole, AND find the Fantastic Four?

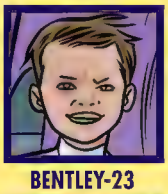
ALEX POWER

AHURA


LUNA

LEECH

ARTIE MADDICKS


BENTLEY-23

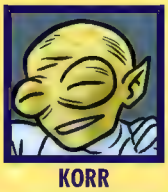
DRAGON MAN

ONOME

VIL

WU

MIK


KORR

TURG

TONG

PAINT IT BLACK

MATT FRACTION
writer

MICHAEL ALLRED
artist

LAURA ALLRED
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer

MICHAEL & LAURA ALLRED
cover artists

JAKE THOMAS
assistant editor

TOM BREVOORT
editor

AXEL ALONSO
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
executive producer

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
cooler than you

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YOU GOT THE STINK OF DOOM ON YA.
I...
EXCUSE ME?
I SAID YOU SMELL LIKE DOCTOR DOOM, BOY.
YOU GONNA TELL ME I'M MISTAKEN?
WHOA, JOHN--WHOA. HEY NOW.
COME ON.

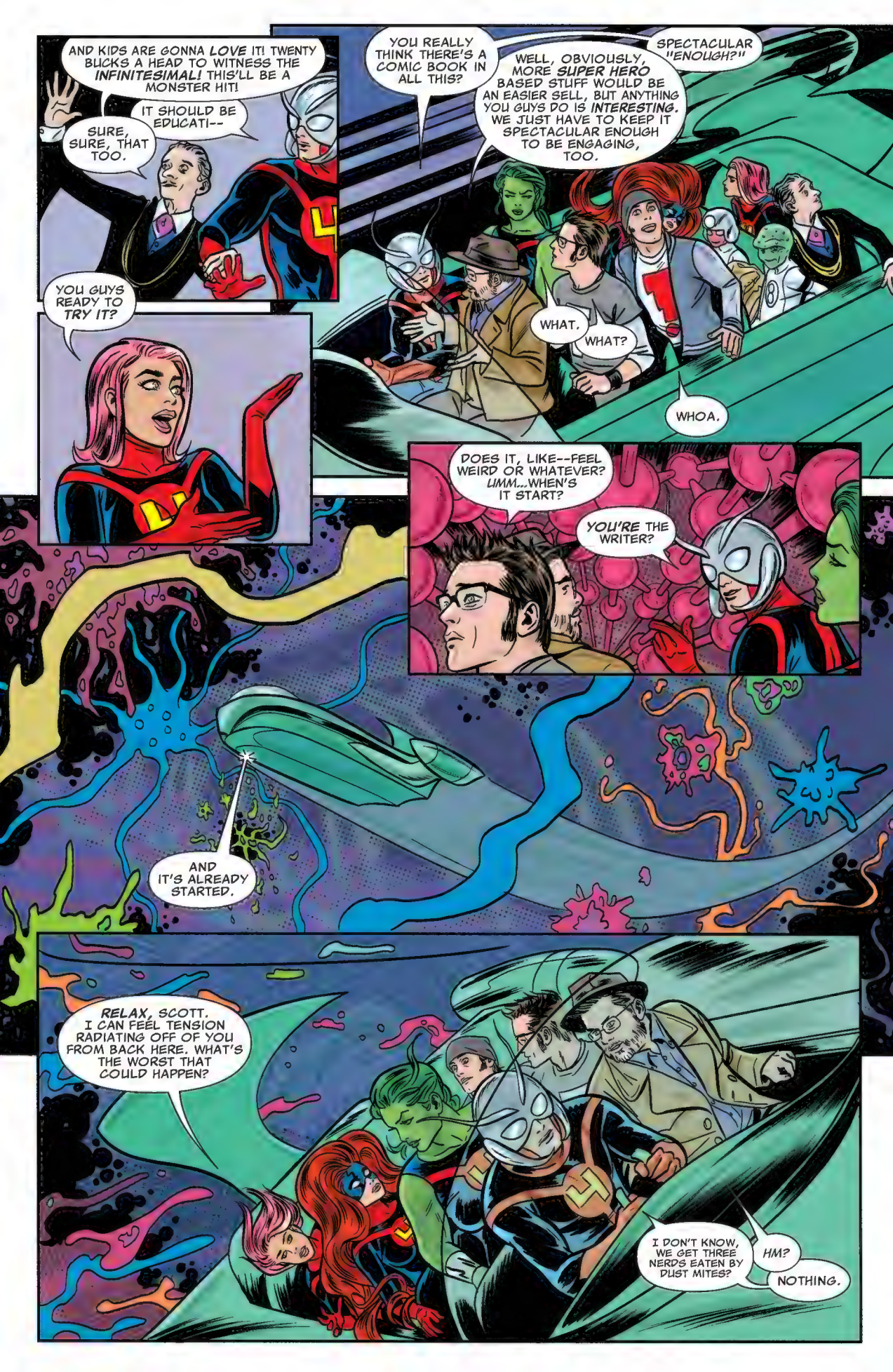
UM.
SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW?
SURE, SURE. EVERYBODY GAWK AT THE OLD MIXED-UP TIME TRAVELER, HUH? EVERYBODY JUST--
COME ON!
SWAAP
KRASH
I AM ON TO YOU, BOY.
YOU MIGHT GOT ALL THESE GUYS FOOLED, BUT YOU AIN'T FOOLED ME.
KILL HIM.

BENTLEY REIGNS!
Bentley don't Vandalize school property
SHUT UP GNOME!
WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY?
AND NOT FOR ANYTHING, BUT THAT GUY'S STILL THE HUMAN TORCH.
DOOM IS MANY THINGS, ALEX POWER, BUT "CRAZY" IS NOT ONE OF THEM.
AND YOU'RE WRONG.
THAT MAN IS NOT THE HUMAN TORCH.
...HE'S NOT?
NO.
HE IS A MAD LOON TANGLED UP IN THINGS HE CANNOT POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND, AND SO BEFORE HE DOES SOMETHING RASH AND UNPREDICTABLE, YOU ARE TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE GAME BOARD!
LEST YOU FORGET, YOUR PARENTS' LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE.
DOOM OUT.

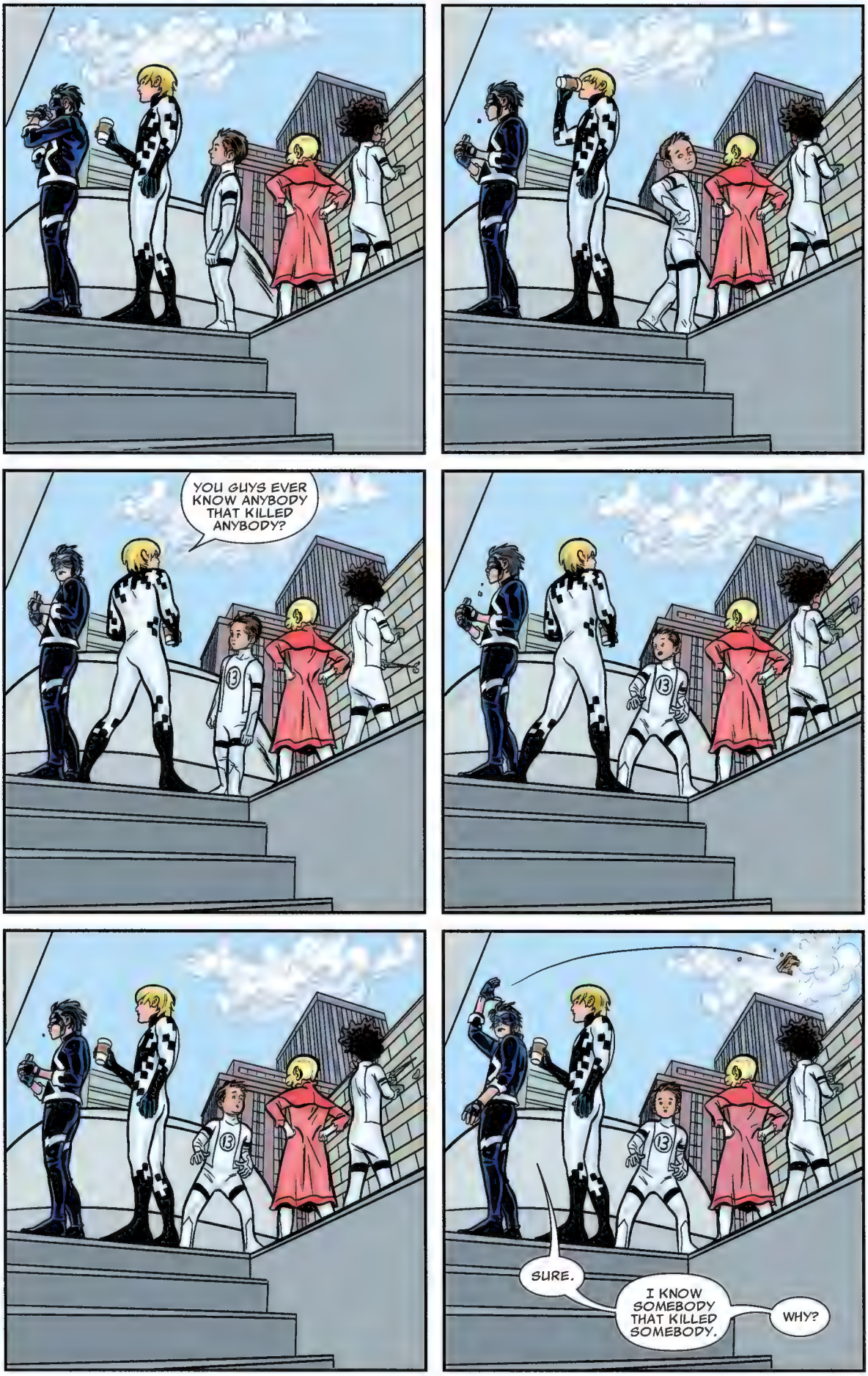
GANG, THESE ARE THE GUYS FROM MARVEL COMICS I WAS TALKING ABOUT. AND YOU KNOW DURANTÉ, MY PUBLICIS--
WE ARE GONNA MAKE YOU A BIG TIME HIT COMIC BOOK WITH THE FF ALL OVER IT--AND START RECLAIMING GROUND IN THIS P.R. WAR YOU'RE IN.
DARLA...

AND YOUR WHOLE LITTLE TINY TOWN THING HERE, THE PUBLIC IS GONNA LOVE THIS.
WE THOUGHT BRINGING THE COMIC GUYS DOWN TO SEE THIS TINY TOWN THING OF YOURS--
PLEASE DON'T CALL IT--
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT A BIG-TIME HIT, BUT WE'VE DONE OKAY WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR COMIC IN THE PAST...
TOM BREVOORT, EDITOR. AND THIS IS MATT, THE WRITER, AND MIKE, OUR ARTIST.
UM. HI?

SO BASICALLY, IT'S A CONSUMER-GRADE VOYAGE INTO THE MICROSCALE WORLD I TEND TO GALLIVANT AROUND IN...
IS IT SAFE?
AS SAFE AS ANYTHING ELSE IN A ZOO.
NOT A RINGING @#%@ ENDORSEMENT...
IT'S EXTREMELY CONTROLLED, AND THE PASSENGERS ENTER A CLEAN-SPACE FREE OF ANY MITES OR RANDOM ELEMENTS. WHAT YOU DO ENCOUNTER, I'VE DESIGNED AND--


AND KIDS ARE GONNA LOVE IT! TWENTY BUCKS A HEAD TO WITNESS THE INFINITESIMAL! THIS'LL BE A MONSTER HIT!
IT SHOULD BE EDUCATI--
SURE, SURE, THAT TOO.
YOU GUYS READY TO TRY IT?
YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S A COMIC BOOK IN ALL THIS?
WELL, OBVIOUSLY, MORE SUPER HERO BASED STUFF WOULD BE AN EASIER SELL, BUT ANYTHING YOU GUYS DO IS INTERESTING. WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP IT SPECTACULAR ENOUGH TO BE ENGAGING, TOO.
SPECTACULAR "ENOUGH?"
WHAT.
WHAT?
WHOA.
DOES IT, LIKE--FEEL WEIRD OR WHATEVER? UMM...WHEN'S IT START?
YOU'RE THE WRITER?
AND IT'S ALREADY STARTED.
RELAX, SCOTT. I CAN FEEL TENSION RADIATING OFF OF YOU FROM BACK HERE. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
I DON'T KNOW, WE GET THREE NERDS EATEN BY DUST MITES?
HM?
NOTHING.

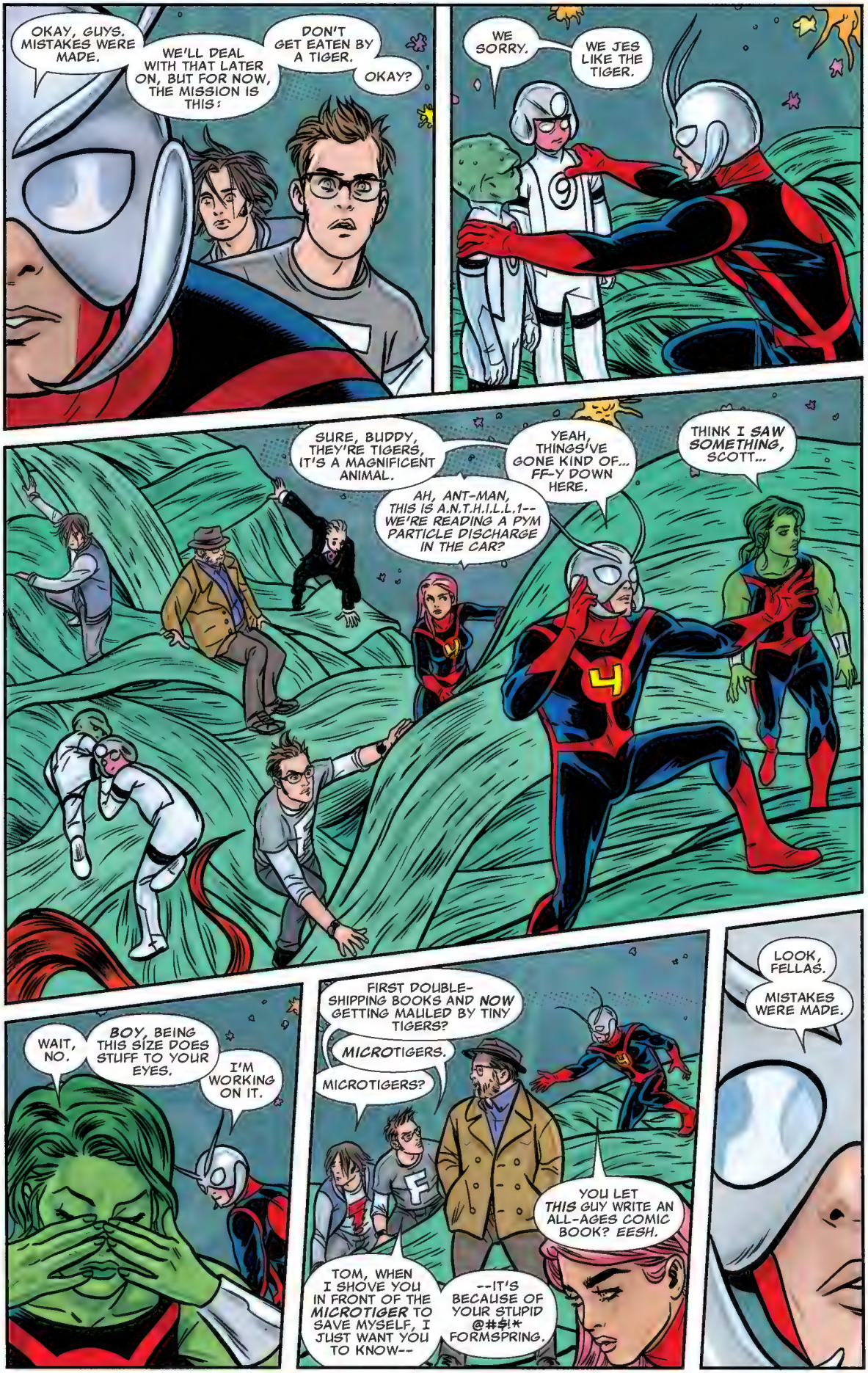
HEY, MAN.
HEY.
YOU MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
TCH.
MAY WE...
YEAH.

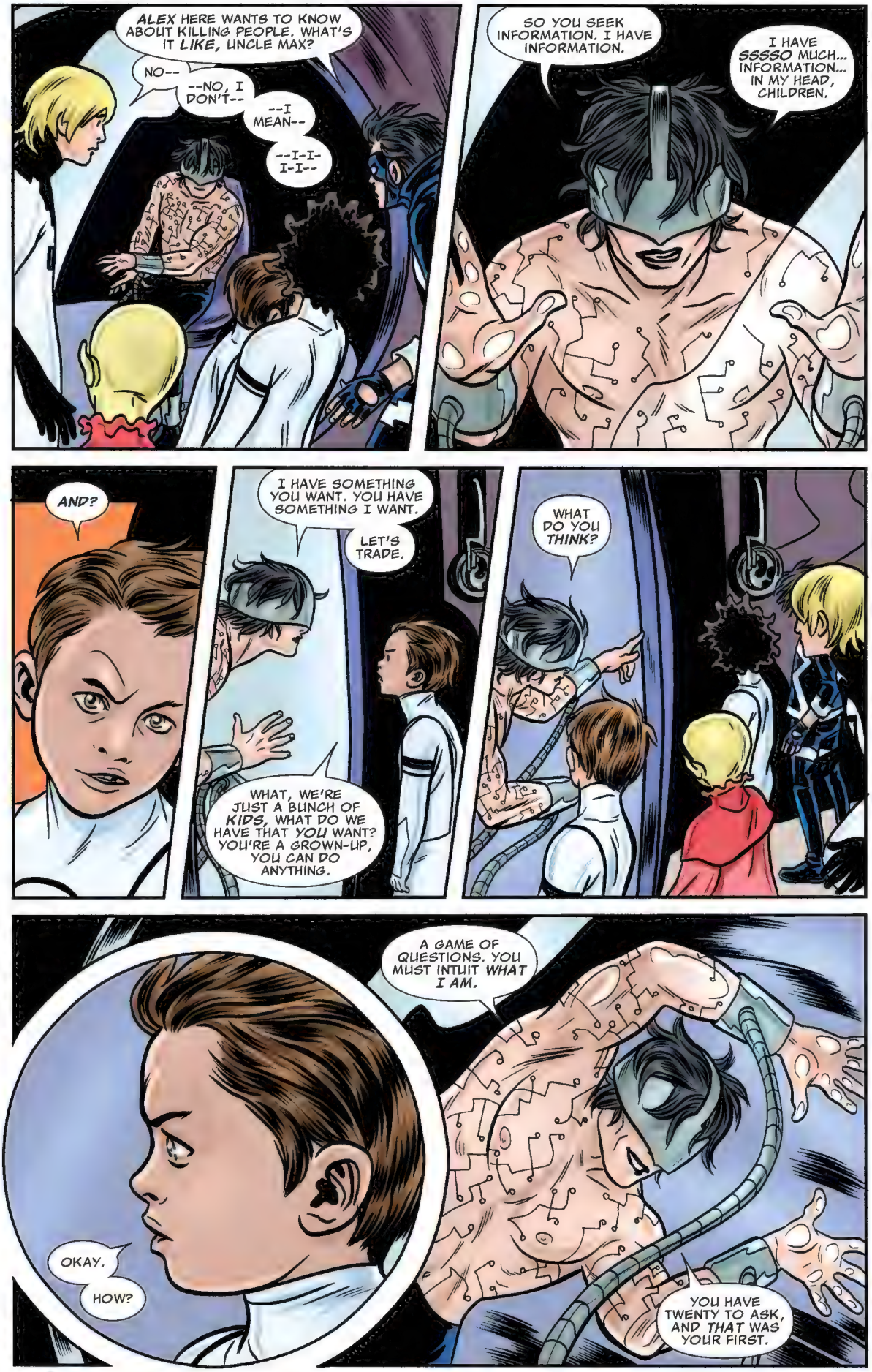

YOU GUYS EVER KNOW ANYBODY THAT KILLED ANYBODY?
SURE.
I KNOW SOMEBODY THAT KILLED SOMEBODY.
WHY?

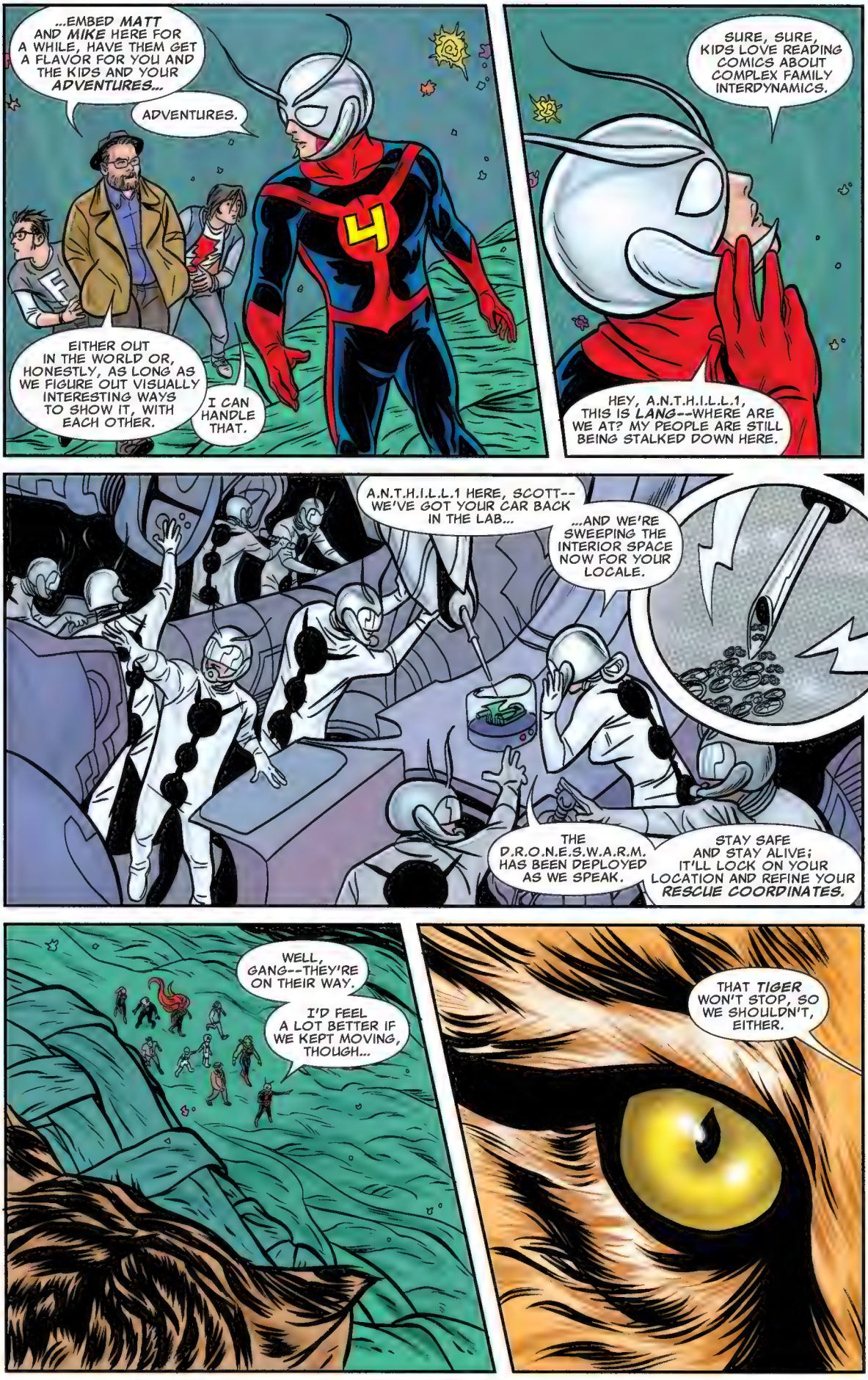
SO THAT'S ATOMS BASICALLY.
SEE? IT'S GOING GREAT.
@#$@#!
GINCHY.
THIS KIND OF THING, THOUGH--YOU, THE NEW FF, THE KIDS--WITH THAT STUFF IN PLACE, REALLY WE JUST NEED TO WORK OUT THE CAPERS MORE OR LESS EACH MONTH AND--
"CAPERS"? YOU KNOW, I DID A LITTLE TIME. WILL THERE BE ISSUES WITH--
HANG ON.
A.N.T.H.I.L.L.1, WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE?
STANDARD PRECAUTION, ANT-MAN.
THERE'S A TIGER MISSING UP HERE. THE PARK'S IN LOCKDOWN.
SORRY FOR ANY DRAMA--YOU GUYS SHOULD BE SAFE DOWN THERE.
MRROOWWF.
AHH...BOYS?
ANYTHING YOU NEED TO TELL US?

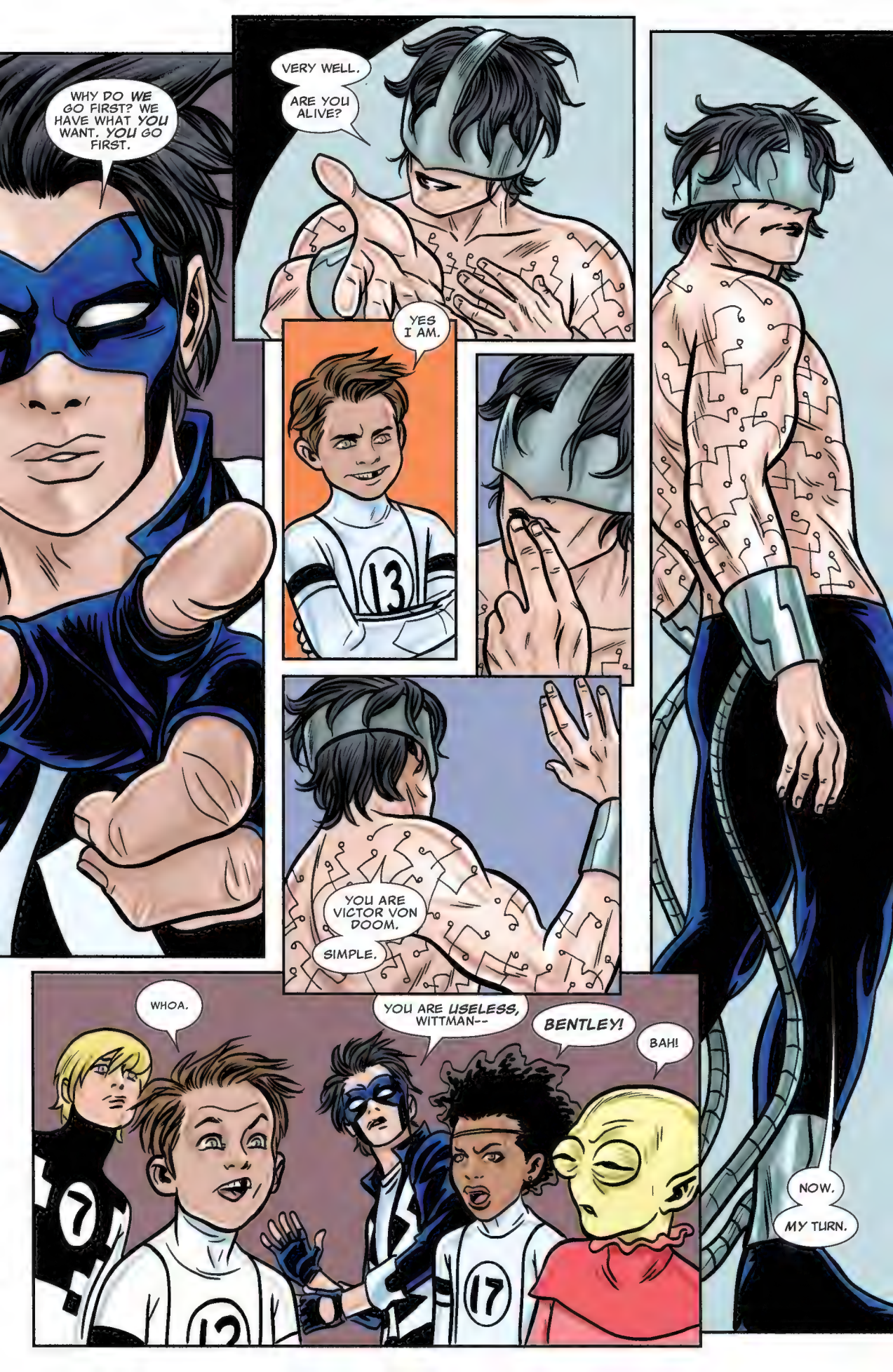
BOYS!
DID YOU MAYBE BORROW SOME OF THE PYM DUST I USE IN MY LAB FOR SHRINKING THINGS AND TAKE THE ZOO'S TIGER TO PLAY WITH?
RAAORR!
NO?
SHOVE
POF
@!$!@!
WATCH THE DUST, WATCH THE DUST--
ZZAK

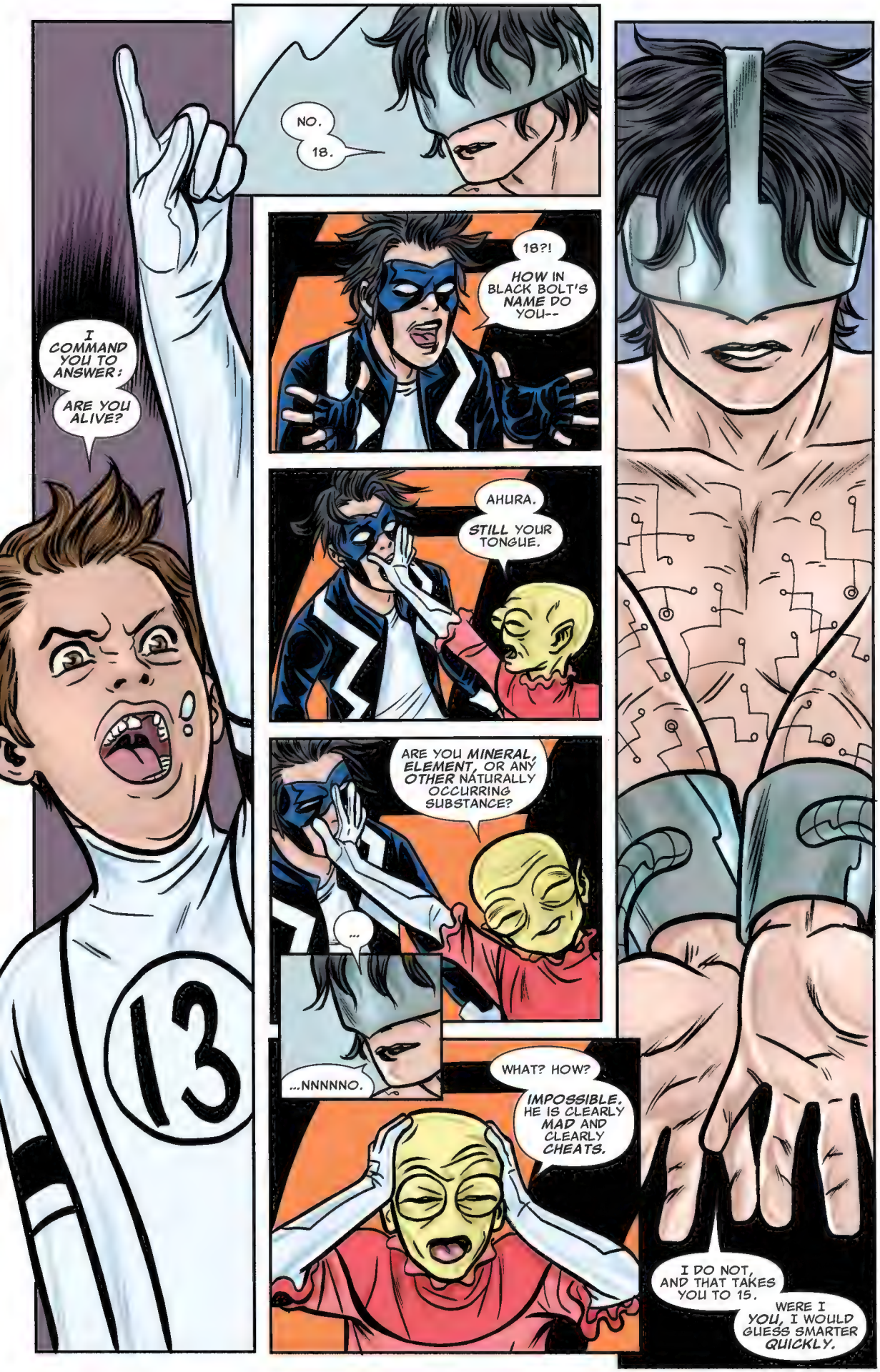
WELL, WELL, WELL.
VISITORS.
THERE IS...
...THERE IS THE BOY WHO WOULD NOT BE KING...
...A COPY...A LITTLE COPY OF A FAILURE...
...A TOURIST... WHO DOESN'T HAVE A HOME TO GO BACK TO...
A LITTLE THING...BECOMING A DIFFERENT THING. OR TRYING.
OH, AHURA... YOU'VE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST.
YOU'VE BROUGHT A DOOMED LITTLE BOY TO SEE ME, HAVEN'T YOU?
MY, MY, YOU MUST REALLY BE IN TROUBLE.
ANYWAY, THIS IS MY UNCLE MAX.
SHOW SOME RESPECT, BOY.
I AM MAXIMUS THE MAD.


OKAY, GUYS. MISTAKES WERE MADE.
WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT LATER ON, BUT FOR NOW, THE MISSION IS THIS:
DON'T GET EATEN BY A TIGER.
OKAY?
WE SORRY.
WE JES LIKE THE TIGER.
SURE, BUDDY, THEY'RE TIGERS, IT'S A MAGNIFICENT ANIMAL.
YEAH, THINGS'VE GONE KIND OF... FF-Y DOWN HERE.
THINK I SAW SOMETHING, SCOTT...
AH, ANT-MAN, THIS IS A.N.T.H.I.L.L.1-- WE'RE READING A PYM PARTICLE DISCHARGE IN THE CAR?
WAIT, NO.
BOY, BEING THIS SIZE DOES STUFF TO YOUR EYES.
I'M WORKING ON IT.
FIRST DOUBLE-SHIPPING BOOKS AND NOW GETTING MAULED BY TINY TIGERS?
MICROTIGERS.
MICROTIGERS?
YOU LET THIS GUY WRITE AN ALL-AGES COMIC BOOK? EESH.
TOM, WHEN I SHOVE YOU IN FRONT OF THE MICROTIGER TO SAVE MYSELF, I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW--
--IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPID @#$!* FORMSPRING.
LOOK, FELLAS.
MISTAKES WERE MADE.


ALEX HERE WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT KILLING PEOPLE. WHAT'S IT LIKE, UNCLE MAX?
NO--
--NO, I DON'T--
--I MEAN--
--I-I-I-I--
SO YOU SEEK INFORMATION. I HAVE INFORMATION.
I HAVE SSSSO MUCH... INFORMATION... IN MY HEAD, CHILDREN.
AND?
I HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT. YOU HAVE SOMETHING I WANT.
LET'S TRADE.
WHAT, WE'RE JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS, WHAT DO WE HAVE THAT YOU WANT? YOU'RE A GROWN-UP, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
A GAME OF QUESTIONS. YOU MUST INTUIT WHAT I AM.
OKAY.
HOW?
YOU HAVE TWENTY TO ASK, AND THAT WAS YOUR FIRST.


...EMBED MATT AND MIKE HERE FOR A WHILE, HAVE THEM GET A FLAVOR FOR YOU AND THE KIDS AND YOUR ADVENTURES...
ADVENTURES.
EITHER OUT IN THE WORLD OR, HONESTLY, AS LONG AS WE FIGURE OUT VISUALLY INTERESTING WAYS TO SHOW IT, WITH EACH OTHER.
I CAN HANDLE THAT.
SURE, SURE, KIDS LOVE READING COMICS ABOUT COMPLEX FAMILY INTERDYNAMICS.
HEY, A.N.T.H.I.L.L.1, THIS IS LANG--WHERE ARE WE AT? MY PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING STALKED DOWN HERE.
A.N.T.H.I.L.L.1 HERE, SCOTT-- WE'VE GOT YOUR CAR BACK IN THE LAB...
...AND WE'RE SWEEPING THE INTERIOR SPACE NOW FOR YOUR LOCALE.
THE D.R.O.N.E.S.W.A.R.M. HAS BEEN DEPLOYED AS WE SPEAK.
STAY SAFE AND STAY ALIVE; IT'LL LOCK ON YOUR LOCATION AND REFINE YOUR RESCUE COORDINATES.
WELL, GANG--THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY.
I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF WE KEPT MOVING, THOUGH...
THAT TIGER WON'T STOP, SO WE SHOULDN'T, EITHER.

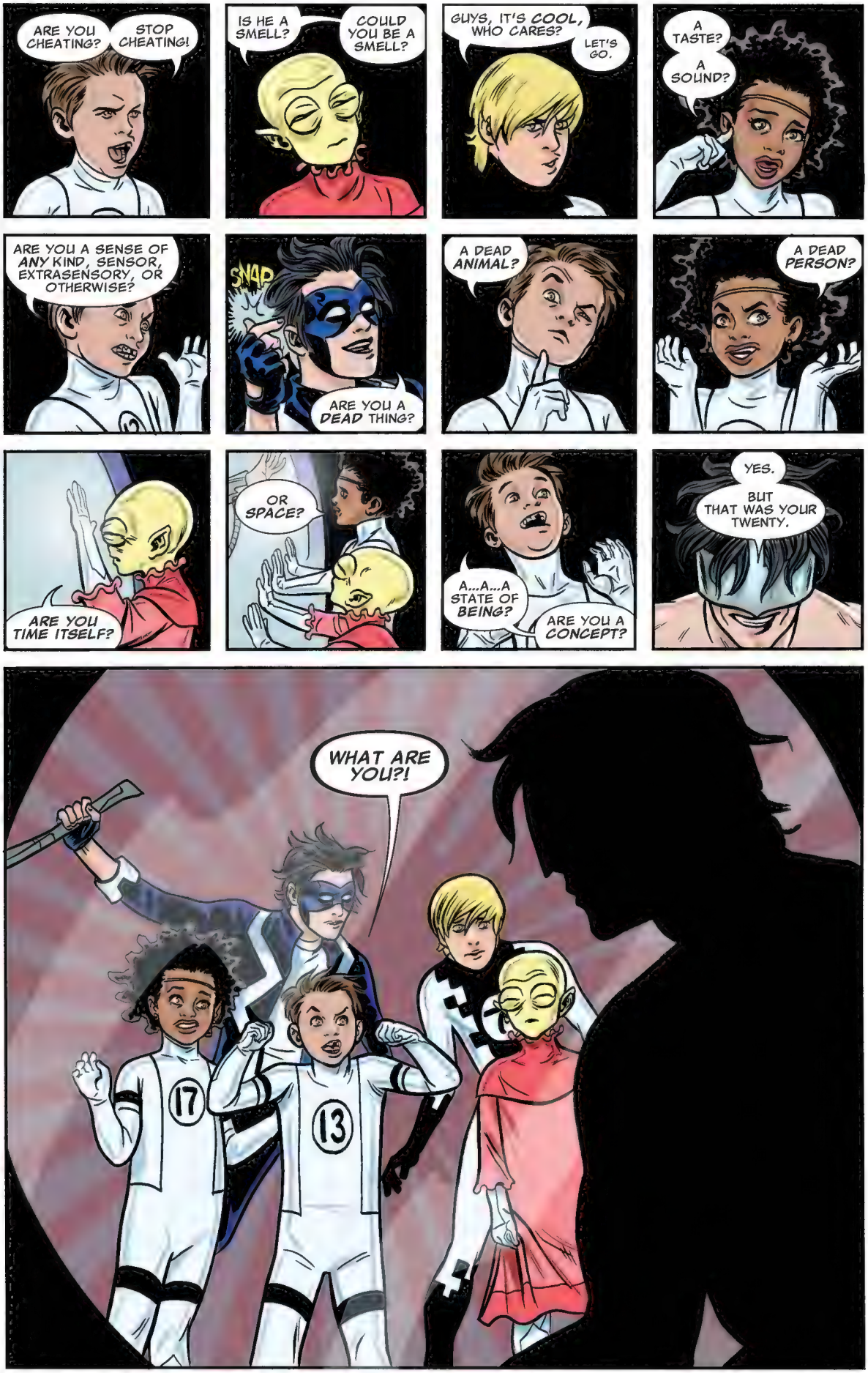

WHY DO WE GO FIRST? WE HAVE WHAT YOU WANT. YOU GO FIRST.
VERY WELL.
ARE YOU ALIVE?
YES I AM.
YOU ARE VICTOR VON DOOM.
SIMPLE.
NOW.
MY TURN.
WHOA.
YOU ARE USELESS, WITTMAN--
BENTLEY!
BAH!


I COMMAND YOU TO ANSWER:
ARE YOU ALIVE?
NO.
18.
18?!
HOW IN BLACK BOLT'S NAME DO YOU--
AHURA.
STILL YOUR TONGUE.
ARE YOU MINERAL, ELEMENT, OR ANY OTHER NATURALLY OCCURRING SUBSTANCE?
...
...NNNNNO.
WHAT? HOW?
IMPOSSIBLE. HE IS CLEARLY MAD AND CLEARLY CHEATS.
I DO NOT, AND THAT TAKES YOU TO 15.
WERE I YOU, I WOULD GUESS SMARTER QUICKLY.

IT'S NOT TOO MUCH LONGER NOW--THE CREVASSES AND SUCH LOOK LIKE THEY STOP OVER THE NEXT RIDGE.
I THINK WE MUST BE SOMEWHERE ON THE PLEATHER SEATS.
WAIT.
GGRRROWWOOORR!
STOP WAITING!
WILL YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT THING?
TCH.
I'VE SEEN WORSE.

MEDUSA, GET HIM CLEAR--
HUMAN!
YIKES--
WWUFF--
--IS THAT ALL YOU GOT?
I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOU.
JENNIFER.
I GOT YOU.
WHITT
WUFF?!

MAN.
I WASN'T SURE THAT WOULD WORK THAT WELL.
IS IT SAFE?
YES IT'S SAFE. IT'S SO SAFE YOU WOULDN'T *BELIEVE* IT. AND HEY--
NOW YOU HAVE AN ENDING TO YOUR COMIC BOOK!
OH, OF COURSE, AND NOW RESCUE ARRIVES, WRAPPING IT ALL UP IN A LITTLE BOW. WHERE'S THE REVELATION? THE SHOCKING TWIST?
THE UNSEEN *SURPRISE* THAT MAKES US WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT?* AT LEAST IF TOM HAD GOTTEN EATEN, THERE'D BE SOME *TRAGEDY*. OR COMEDY.
COMI-TRAGEDY.
GIVE IT A FEW MINUTES. WE'RE THE FF.
SOMETHING WILL COME UP.
I DUNNO, MAN, IT'S KIND OF WEAK.
I MEAN, WE *ALMOST* GOT KILLED BY A MACRO-MICROTIGER? BUT DIDN'T?


ARE YOU CHEATING?
STOP CHEATING!
IS HE A SMELL?
COULD YOU BE A SMELL?
GUYS, IT'S COOL, WHO CARES?
LET'S GO.
A TASTE?
A SOUND?
ARE YOU A SENSE OF ANY KIND, SENSOR, EXTRASENSORY, OR OTHERWISE?
SNAP
ARE YOU A DEAD THING?
A DEAD ANIMAL?
A DEAD PERSON?
ARE YOU TIME ITSELF?
OR SPACE?
A...A...A STATE OF BEING?
ARE YOU A CONCEPT?
YES.
BUT THAT WAS YOUR TWENTY.
WHAT ARE YOU?!
17
13

I AM FREE.
13
FF

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

I feel as though I've perhaps been neglecting to print feedback on FF inadvertently in favor of the original FANTASTIC FOUR title. So let's see if we can't rectify that inequity a little bit this time out:

Dear FF/FANTASTIC FOUR creative team/s,

I wanted to write and say I'm loving both books. The feeling I get from both of these books is family. I feel like these stories feel the way that Stan Lee and Jack Kirby intended the reader to feel when they read FF, during their run on the book. It's funny too, because it's not even the original Fantastic Four cast, but the tone and feeling is the same. In a good way, not a boring, same way. Thank you to all involved for making these two books such a joy, and so much fun to read. Make mine Marvel!

Sincerely,
Brooks Bowden
Indianapolis, IN.

4444

Salve, Matt et Mark!

Quattuor Mirabilis V amavi! Vincit omnia familia! Excelsior!*

*Given issue five's ancient Roman setting, I was inspired to write a Latin fan letter, which hopefully translates as "Hello, Matt and Mark! I loved FANTASTIC FOUR #5! Family conquers all! Excellent!" However, I have not used Latin since that disastrous attempt to summon Mephisto, so my Latin may be a little rusty.

Reed Beebe
Kansas City, MO

Anksthay orfay itingwray, Eedray!

Hi. I'm not really into the Fantastic Four, like, at all, but my Mom is. But while I'm waiting for my favorite new comic, AVENGING SPIDER-MAN, to actually be about Spider-Man again (ahem), Mom generously let me read her FANTASTIC FOUR. I read issues #1, #3, and #5, I think. I actually didn't mind them too bad. Sue is like the coolest Mom in comics. I love my Mom, and so it's cool to have a super hero mom raising her kids like Sue does. I really liked it when she quoted 'Goodnight Moon.' Mom used to read that to me when I was little, so it was special. Keep doin' what you're doin' with Sue. She's awesome. Ben and Johnny were pretty cool, too. I like it that they all look after Franklin and Valeria.

But Reed...he's like the embodiment of what I hate. He is such a JERK. He's like, "Wow, cool! Information that could save the lives of my teammates and possibly the world! I'm gonna keep it to myself now!" I mean, c'mon! He's putting his kids in danger, he's a jerk to them, he's a jerk to Ben and Johnny, and worst of all, he's a jerk to SUE. No one messes wit' da Mommas. NO ONE. I think Namor or even Doctor Doom would have been a better dad to those kids.

That said, it was a pretty good read. I wasn't too sure about the Caesar zombie, but it was nice to read a current title without the risk of being emotionally scarred. It was bad for awhile, guys.

So, keep it up! And please blow up Reed!

Jennifer Snow

Dear F's:

It took me about two hour to read FF #5 last night. In point of fact, it took me about forty-five minutes just to read the COVER, and it barely had any words on it at all except for some F's and things of that nature. I SAVOR this book! I RELISH this book! I want this book to be a juice box and poke it with a short plastic straw and ingest its contents with measured and delectable precision! THAT'S HOW MUCH I LIKE IT! Let the record show that the cover to FF #5 is likely the GREATEST BLACK-BACKGROUND COVER in ALL FANTASTIC-FOUR-DOM since that whole Hulk v. Thing thing in FANTASTIC FOUR #112, 1971. Just brilliant. Genius! Huzzah!

Not only is the art completely devastating my mind, but the story was amazing enough to be noteworthy in its amazingness. A wacked-out Lightning-Lad-damaged Johnny Storm from the future staggers into the old Sub-Mariner flophouse from FANTASTIC FOUR #4, oblivious to the fact that the space is now some kind of white-walled hipster enclave with an iMac G4, Atari 2600, and Fleetwood Mac double album on display??? TOO FREAKING MUCH!!! (Oddly enough, that page reminded me more of the page from JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #120, where Thor goes to Avengers Mansion to roust up Captain America, Iron Man, and Giant-Man, and finds only Hawkeye, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch and leaves alone and confounded)

Furthermore, stop me if you've heard this before, but Laura Allred is the best colorist the medium has ever seen, ever. EVER. My one question is this: Is FF being printed with FIVE colors of ink -- the four standard process colors, and then that freaky pink? If so, bravo! How'd you swing it? If not, Laura Allred is even a bigger wizard than I thought.

Speaking of wizards, I LOVE THE WIZARD, largely because his head is bulbous and lavender. Keep up the good work.

RFO QNS KOF TTB PMM
Norb Rozek
Green Bay WI

4444

Team FF,

Could Matt please stop turning every Marvel character into an atheist? It feels like he is proselytizing his personal beliefs. Science and religious beliefs are not incompatible for everyone. I am a scientist and religious person. Several deep thinkers offer ways to reconcile the two traditions. The Greek philosopher Hippocrates taught that all things were natural and divine. Aristotle taught that the soul derived from the natural properties of the body but was also real. St. Aquinas riffs on this idea. I think that is as heavy as I can get in the space allowed, but folks interested in science and religion should look these ideas up. I respect the beliefs of atheists but in so far as Matt is only a temporary custodian of the Marvel Universe could he please leave room for a diversity of traditions in it?

Jim Murphy

4444

As a faithful reader of both FANTASTIC FOUR and FF I am used to singing the praises of Mr. Hickman and Mr. Fraction. Amazing writing deserves amazing art. FF (volume 1) #22 introduced us to the art of André Araújo and set the bar at a new level. Today I was ecstatic when I opened the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR #5AU to see this superior artist again! Please give us more art from André Araújo!

Michael Strackbein
Annapolis, Maryland

That makes this the perfect time to plug the new AVENGERS A.I. series, the first issue of which should be on sale by the time you read this, and which is being illustrated by the illustrious Mister Araujo!

And speaking of illustrators:

Hi Matt!

I just gotta speak up here.

You are on fire!

I've finally shoved all distractions aside and am so happy to be breaking down another "Matt Fraction gem" to draw.

I was just going to write you a personal note, but decided to cc the team and do a "big share".

Any praise you are receiving for your take on the F4 and FF is simply not enough. This is some of the most exciting, moving, and FUN, clever and inventive stuff I've read in years and years.

Now, Laura and I have been plowing through a little trauma here, yes, but the giddiness I'm feeling was felt BEFORE the break in as well, so I think I'm stable and consistent in this joyful blathering.

Maybe returning to and submerging ourselves in the beloved Marvel Universe (and specifically the world of FF/F4) was just what was needed after our ordeal, but I have to say, we've been on a high since reading the latest scripts and seeing the inspired pencils of Joe Quinones and Bags and realizing we get to play too.

But, MAN, OH MAN! Getting to where Bentley comes leaping in with the vest to save Darla from Blastaar in #7...?

Tears welled-up in eyeballs, Man!

Brought me back to when I was a kid and Han Solo flies in and clears the way for Luke's attack of the Death Star. CLASSIC!

I have way more praise, but I want to get back to the ol' drawing board.

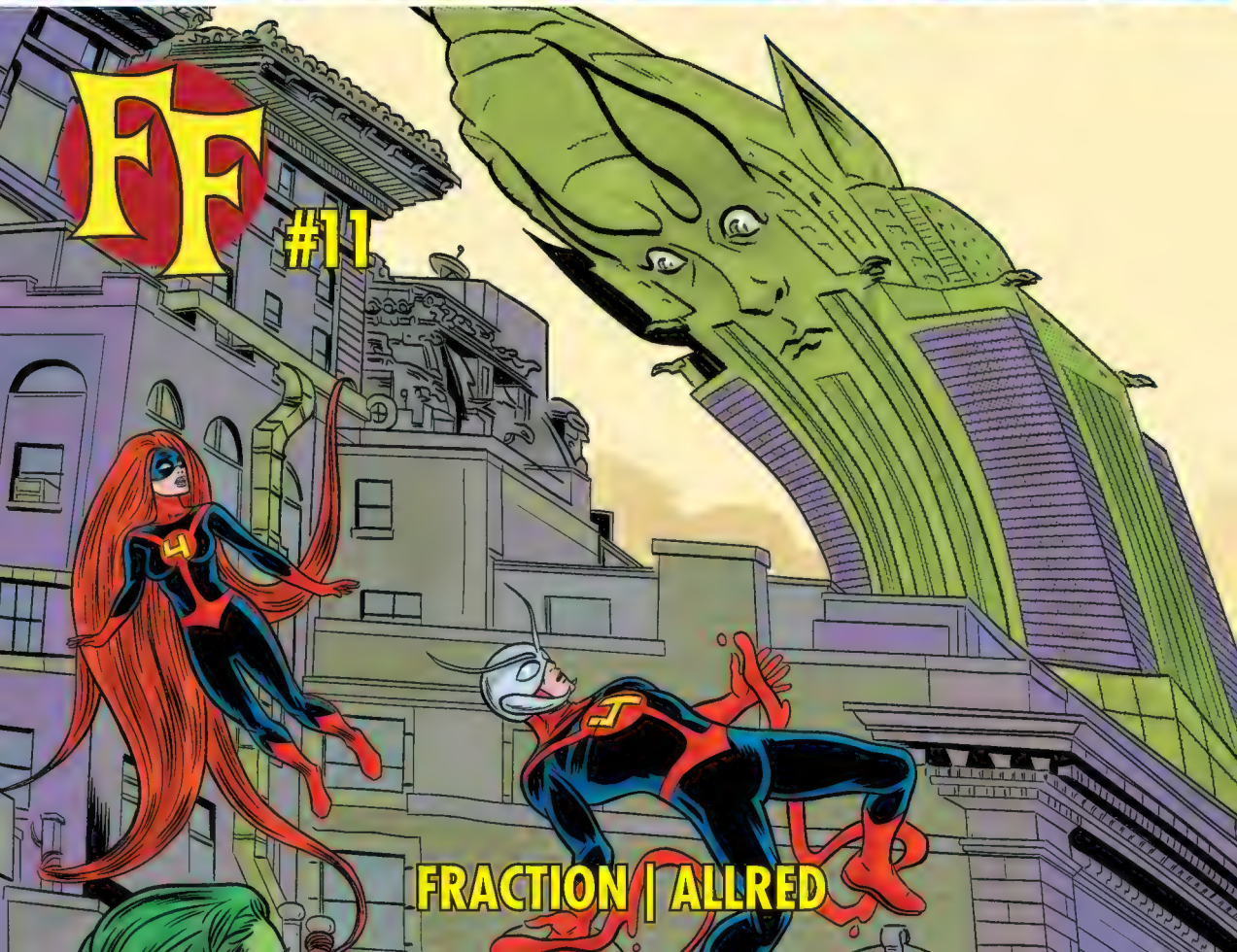
Love ya,
Doc Red

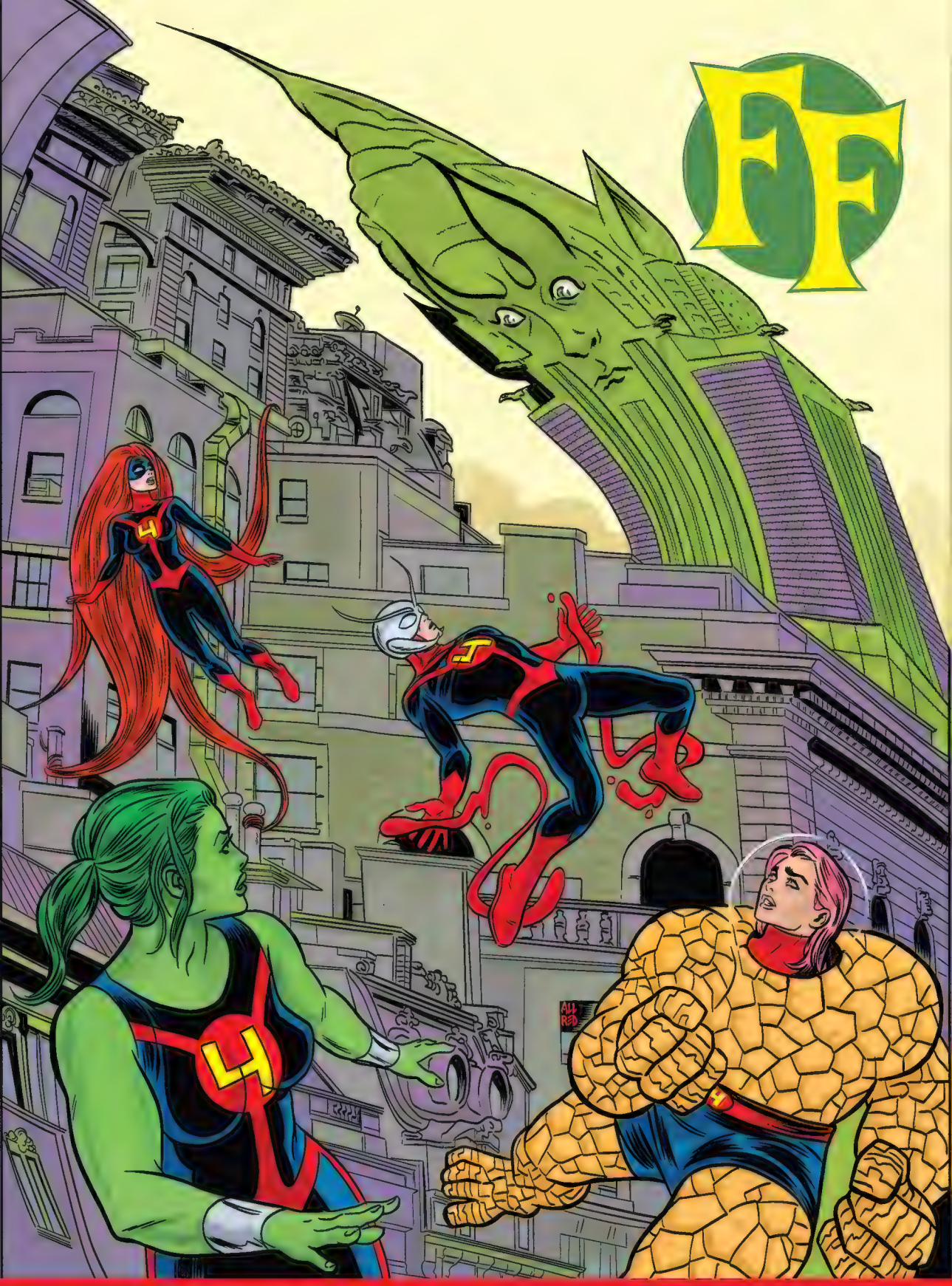
ps "Hawk Guy" rocks big time too!

See you next time, folks!
Tom B
6/6/13

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can e-mail it to us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!

FANTASTIC FOUR #11
FRACTION | BAGLEY


FF #11
FRACTION | ALLRED


FF
MARVEL
MATT FRACTION
MICHAEL ALLRED
LAURA ALLRED
011

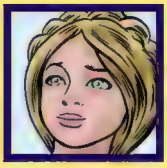
THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

While away on their cosmic family vacation, the Fantastic Four left the young and brilliant children of the Future Foundation in the care of Ant-Man, Darla Deering, Medusa and She-Hulk. Soon after the Fantastic Four left, a scarred, traumatized, older John Storm returned, claiming the team had all died!

When all seemed lost, help arrived in the form of the long-lived alien that had posed as Julius Caesar, who came to the FF and told them that the Fantastic Four helped him in his time of need, and he wished to return the favor. The Fantastic Four, he explained, were unmoored in space and time, and only the FF could save them using his space-time ship. Meanwhile, Dr. Doom captured Alex Power's parents and is using his leverage to get Alex to kill Old John Storm. Alex and some of the kids went to Ahura and Luna's uncle Maximus the Mad for advice on killing, but accidentally set him free!

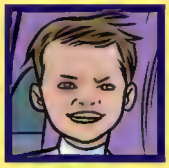
ALEX POWER

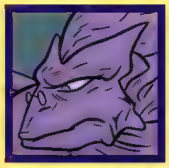
AHURA


LUNA

LEECH

ARTIE MADDICKS


BENTLEY-23


DRAGON MAN

ONOME

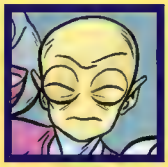
VIL

WU

MIK

KORR

TURG


TONG

THE POSSIBLE BOY

MATT FRACTION
writer

MICHAEL ALLRED
artist

LAURA ALLRED
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer

MICHAEL & LAURA ALLRED
cover artists

JAKE THOMAS
assistant editor

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editor

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editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
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DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
executive producer

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
made the impossible possible

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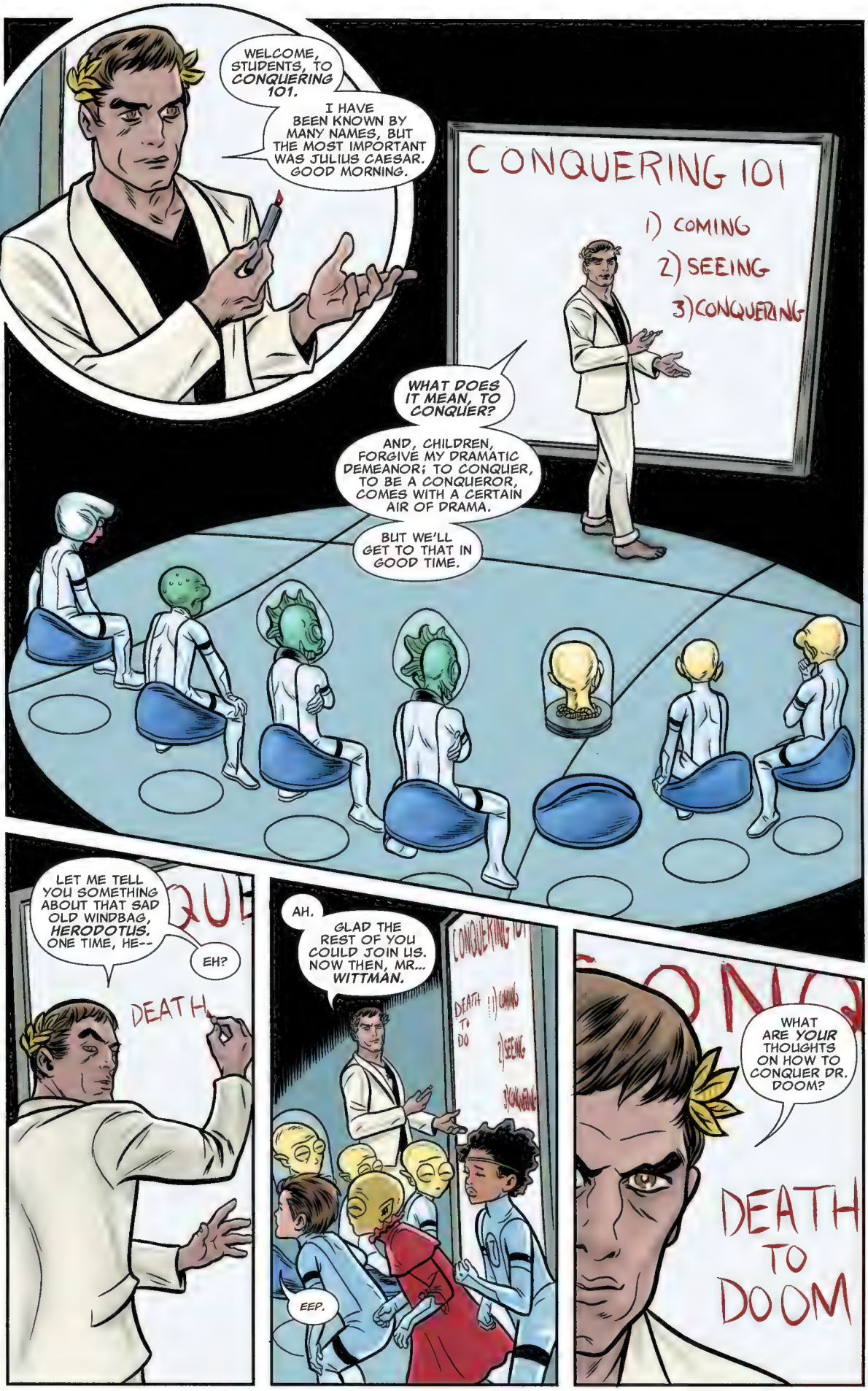
IS EVERYBODY IN?
I DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO GET HURT WHEN THIS TIME-SHIP OF CAESAR'S FIRES UP.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME TIME TRAVELING.
AND LADIES--
ARE WE COOL? IS EVERYBODY GOING TO BE COOL?
SCOTT.
WE'RE ALL ADULTS HERE. AREN'T WE, GIRLS?
TT. I AM.
MMM.
GREAT.
JUST GREAT.
STAND BY. NEXT STOP: RIGHT HERE, THE DAY THE FANTASTIC FOUR DISAPPEARED...
WHUZZ

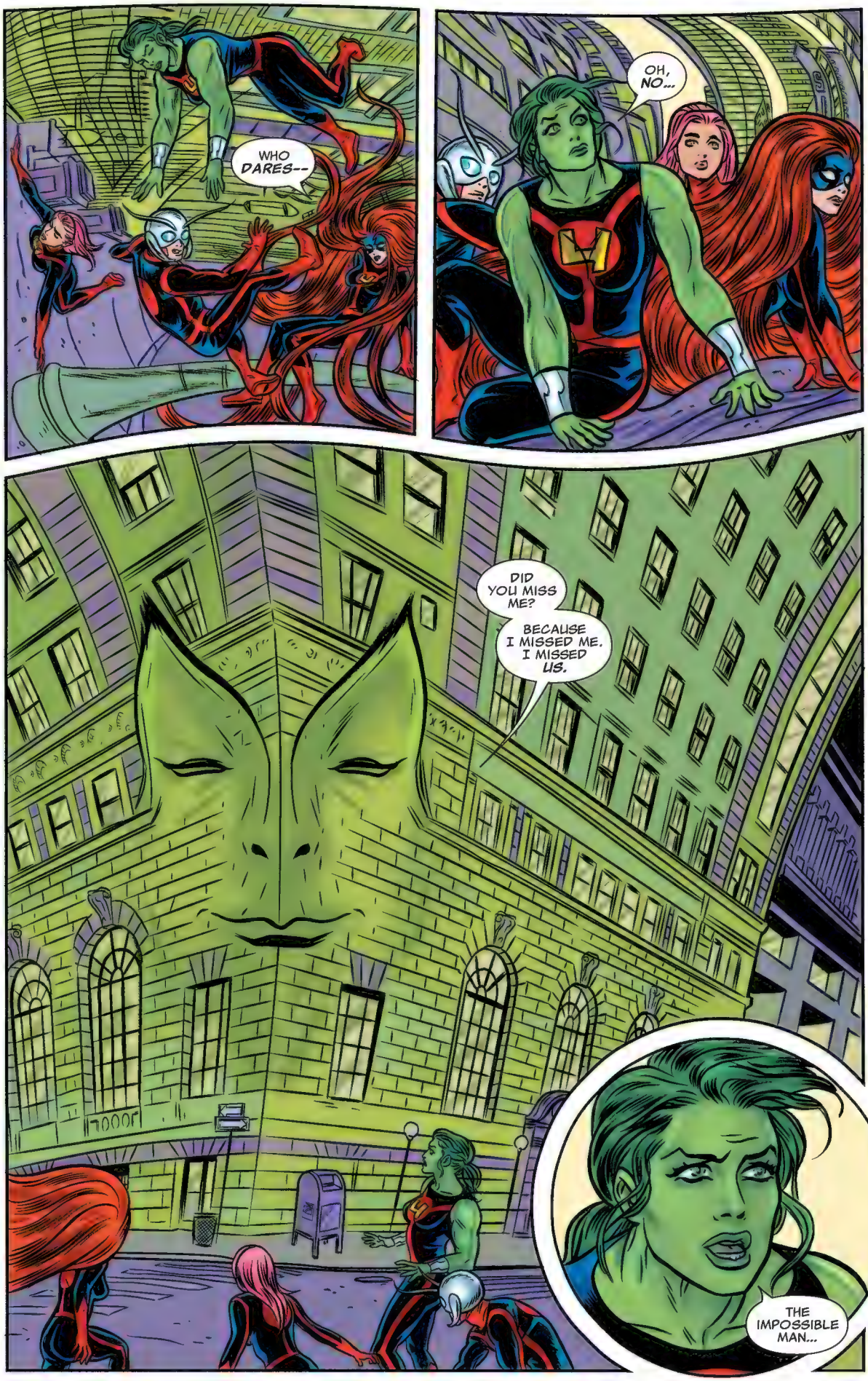
SHOOM!
AAAAAAAA
BLARRBBLE
POP!
CCAAAAAAAHHHHH

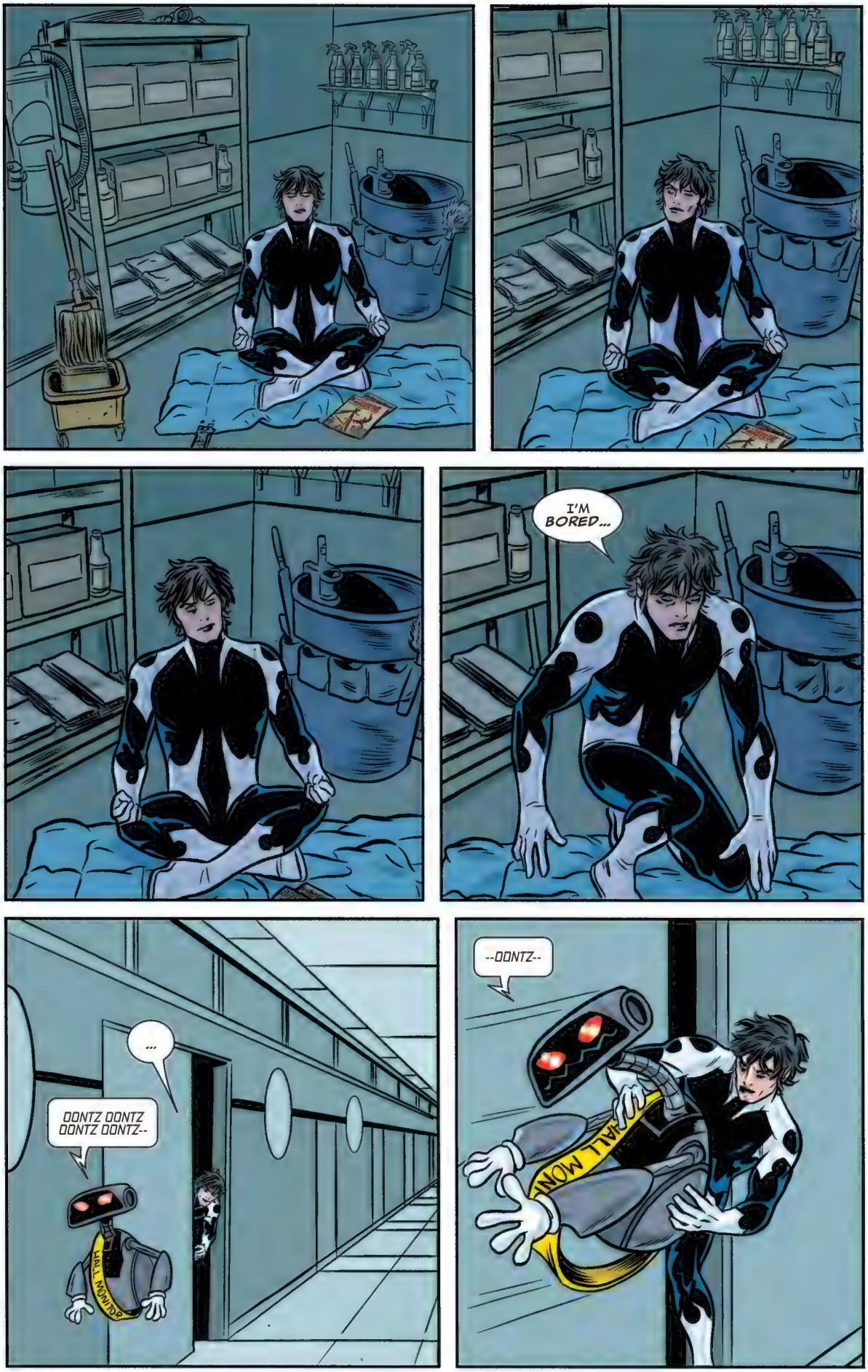
WHAT ARE YOU WEE FREAKS DOING?
AHUUUURAAA...
WHAT KIND OF CLANDESTINE OPERATION IS THIS IF YOU REFUSE TO BE CLANDESTINE?
I DON'T CARE HOW DREAMY THE GIRLS THINK YOU ARE--
BENTLEY--
WE CAN'T GET CAUGHT NOW, OR IT'S ALL BEEN FOR NOTHING.
HALL MONITOR

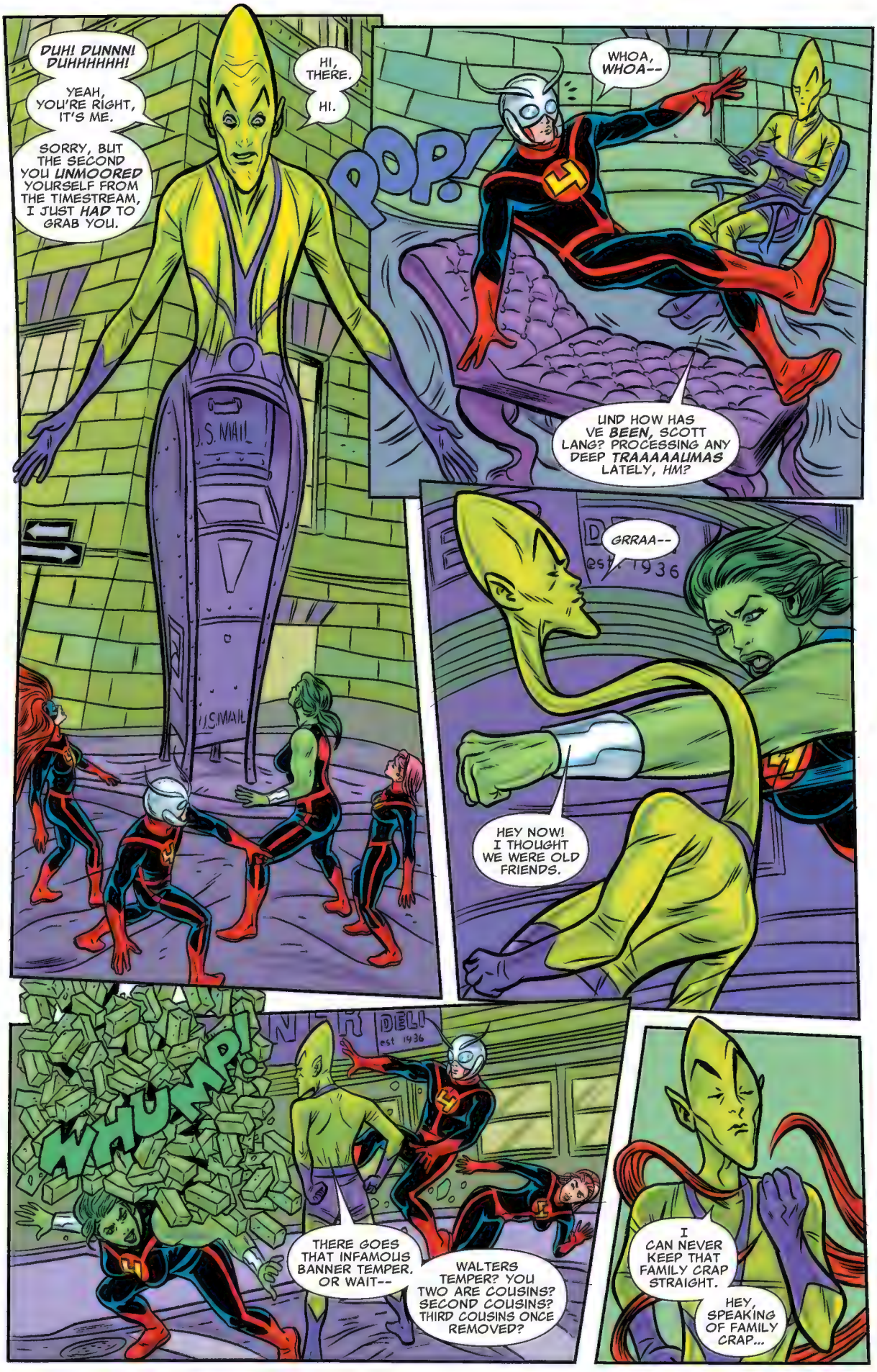

WELCOME, STUDENTS, TO CONQUERING 101.
I HAVE BEEN KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS JULIUS CAESAR. GOOD MORNING.
CONQUERING 101
1) COMING
2) SEEING
3) CONQUERING
WHAT DOES IT MEAN, TO CONQUER?
AND, CHILDREN, FORGIVE MY DRAMATIC DEMEANOR; TO CONQUER, TO BE A CONQUEROR, COMES WITH A CERTAIN AIR OF DRAMA.
BUT WE'LL GET TO THAT IN GOOD TIME.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THAT SAD OLD WINDBAG, HERODOTUS. ONE TIME, HE--
EH?
DEATH
AH.
GLAD THE REST OF YOU COULD JOIN US. NOW THEN, MR... WITTMAN.
CONQUERING 101
DEATH TO DO
1) COMING
2) SEEING
3) CONQUERING
EEP.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW TO CONQUER DR. DOOM?
DEATH TO DOOM

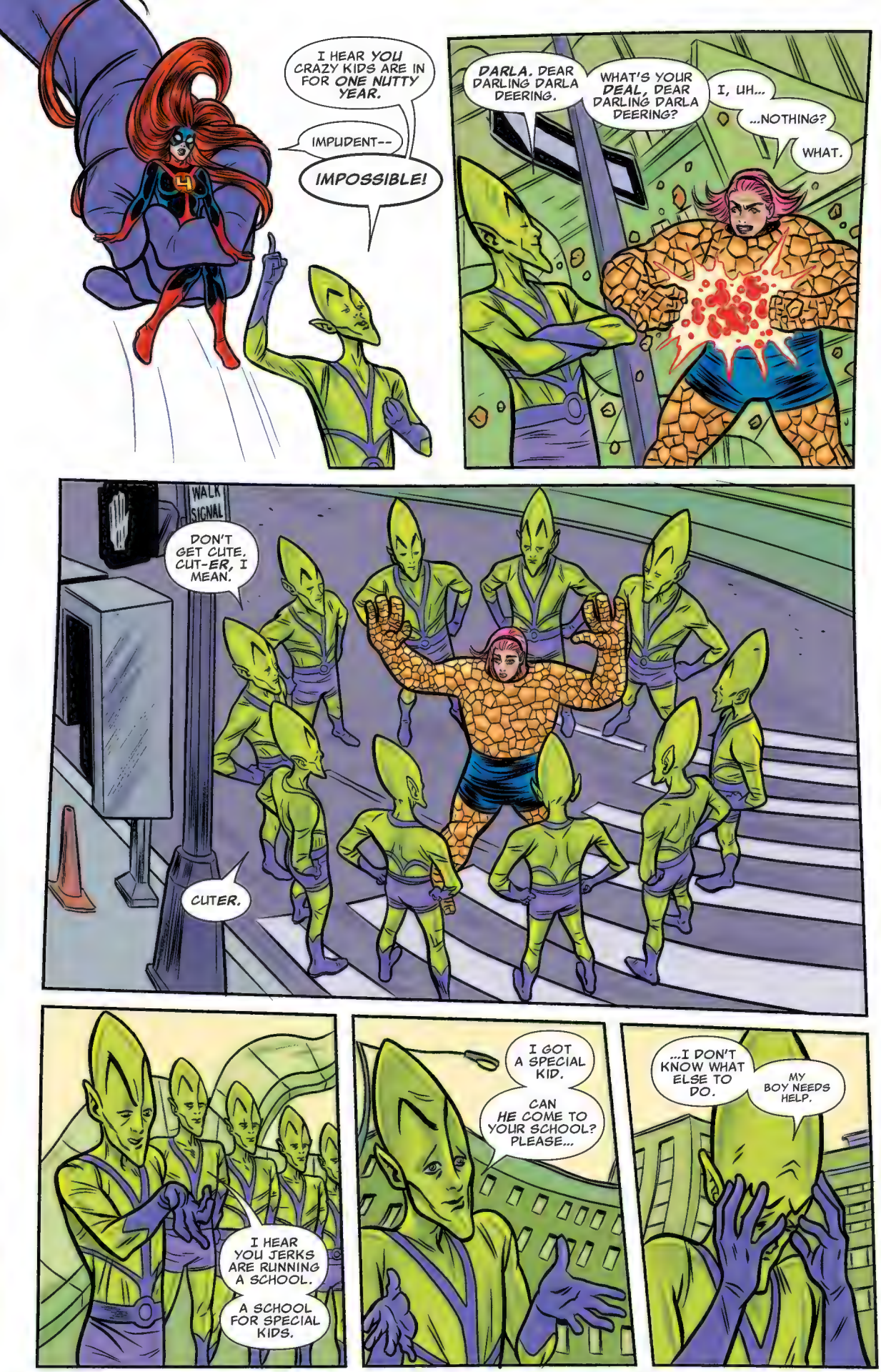
POP!
UM.
IS EVERYONE OKAY?
SURE, SCOTT.
JUSSSSST GREAT.
COOL.
COOL COOL. WELL...
IF THIS IS THE DAY THE FANTASTIC FOUR LEFT...
WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
AND WHY IS EVERYTHING PURPLE AND GREEN?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR CLOSET THREW UP ON A PLANET.
ZIP IT, MANIC PANIC.
GUYS...

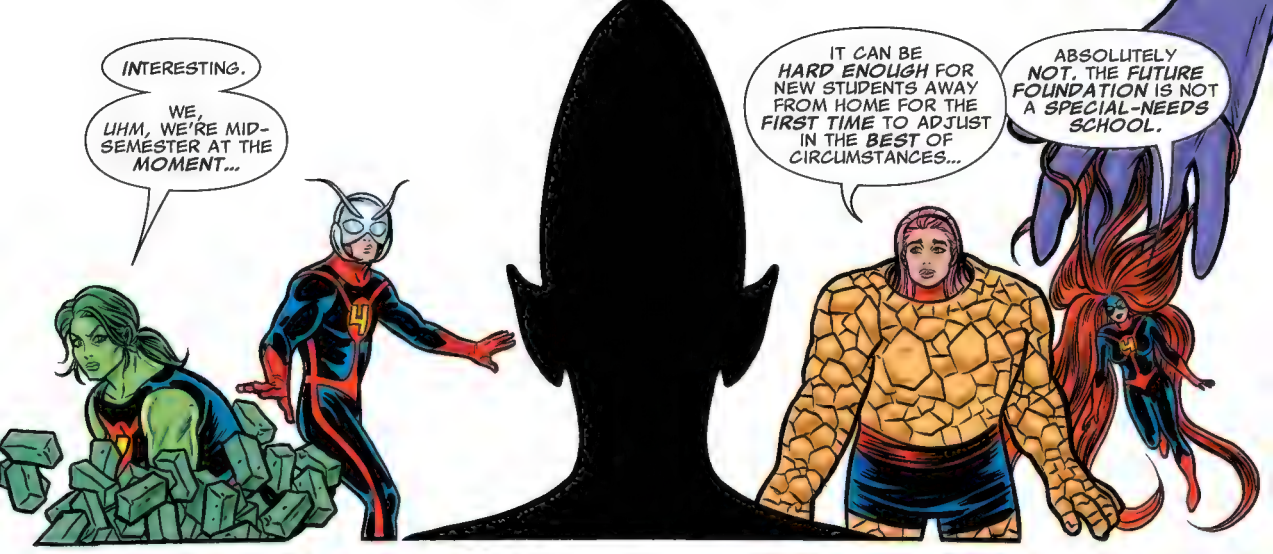
DARLA'S RIGHT. WHY DOES EVERYTHING LOOK SO WEIRD?
IT'S NOT JUST THE COLORS.
LOOK.
GUYS.
GUYS, I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD. I FEEL KIND OF DIZZY...
AAAH--
EASY, DARLA--
--WHOA--
THIIIIIISSSS SUUUUCCCKKKKSSS!


WHO DARES--
OH, NO...
DID YOU MISS ME?
BECAUSE I MISSED ME. I MISSED US.
THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN...


I'M BORED...
...
OONTZ OONTZ OONTZ OONTZ--
HALL MONITOR
--OONTZ--
HALL MONI


DUH! DUNNN! DUHHHHHH!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S ME.
SORRY, BUT THE SECOND YOU UNMOORED YOURSELF FROM THE TIMESTREAM, I JUST HAD TO GRAB YOU.
HI, THERE.
HI.
U.S. MAIL
POP!
WHOA, WHOA--
UND HOW HAS VE BEEN, SCOTT LANG? PROCESSING ANY DEEP TRAAAAAUMAS LATELY, HM?
GRRAA--
HEY NOW! I THOUGHT WE WERE OLD FRIENDS.
DELI
est 1936
WHUMP!
THERE GOES THAT INFAMOUS BANNER TEMPER. OR WAIT--
WALTERS TEMPER? YOU TWO ARE COUSINS? SECOND COUSINS? THIRD COUSINS ONCE REMOVED?
I CAN NEVER KEEP THAT FAMILY CRAP STRAIGHT.
HEY, SPEAKING OF FAMILY CRAP...

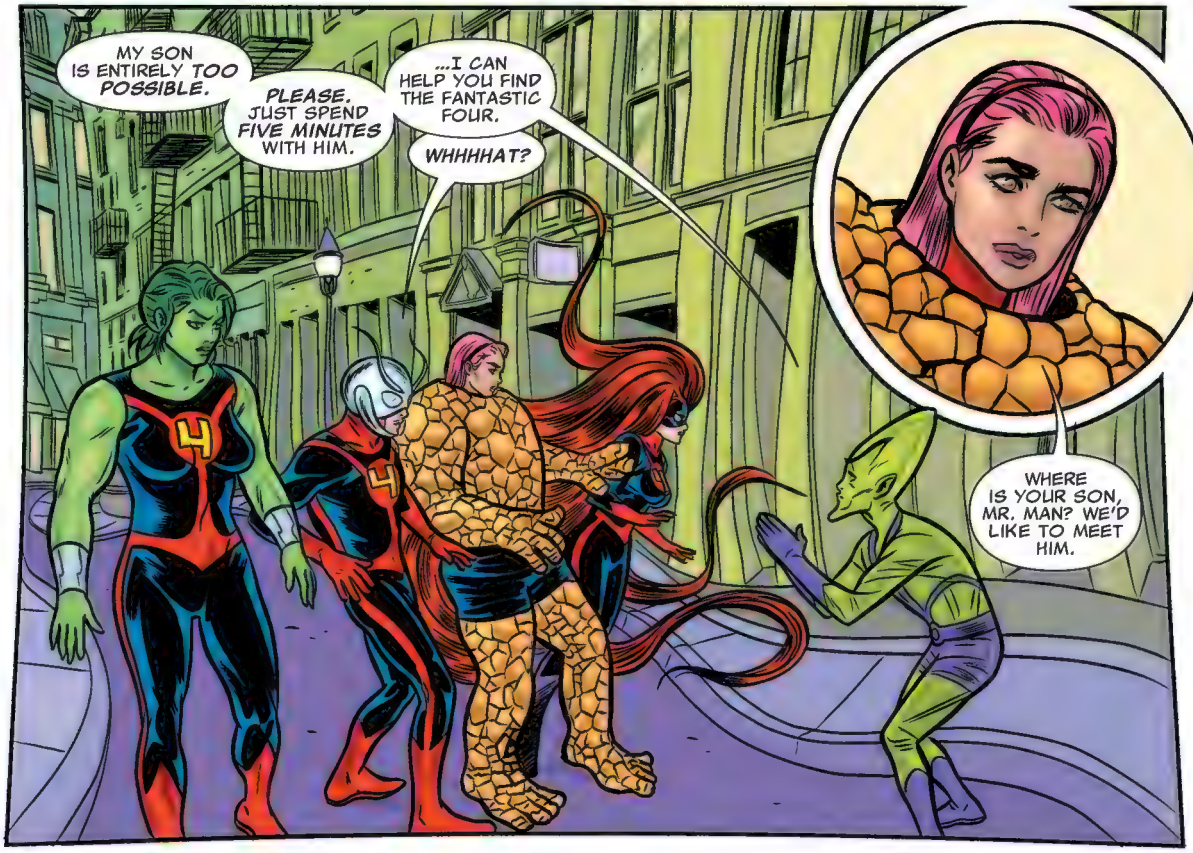

I HEAR YOU CRAZY KIDS ARE IN FOR ONE NUTTY YEAR.
IMPUDENT--
IMPOSSIBLE!
DARLA. DEAR DARLING DARLA DEERING.
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL, DEAR DARLING DARLA DEERING?
I, UH...
...NOTHING?
WHAT.
WALK SIGNAL
DON'T GET CUTE. CUT-ER, I MEAN.
CUTER.
I HEAR YOU JERKS ARE RUNNING A SCHOOL.
A SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL KIDS.
I GOT A SPECIAL KID.
CAN HE COME TO YOUR SCHOOL? PLEASE...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.
MY BOY NEEDS HELP.

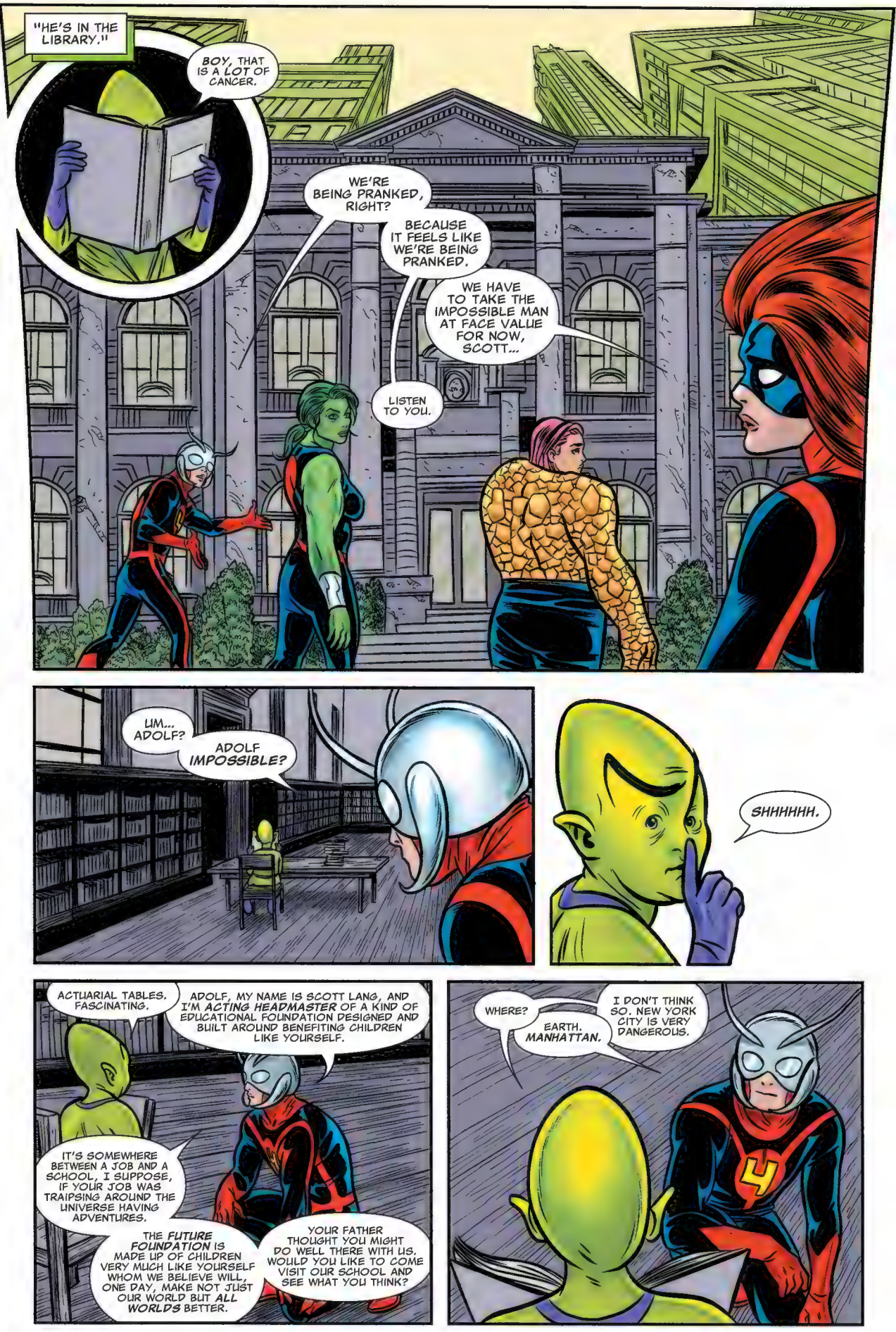

INTERESTING.
WE, UHM, WE'RE MID-SEMESTER AT THE MOMENT...
IT CAN BE HARD ENOUGH FOR NEW STUDENTS AWAY FROM HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME TO ADJUST IN THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES...
ABSOLUTELY NOT. THE FUTURE FOUNDATION IS NOT A SPECIAL-NEEDS SCHOOL.

WHILE SOME OF OUR STUDENTS, TRUE, MAY REQUIRE VERY SPECIFIC CURRICULA, WE ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO TAKE CARE OF A CHILD THAT MIGHT HAVE EMOTIONAL ISSUES.
MORE EMOTIONAL ISSUES, I MEAN.

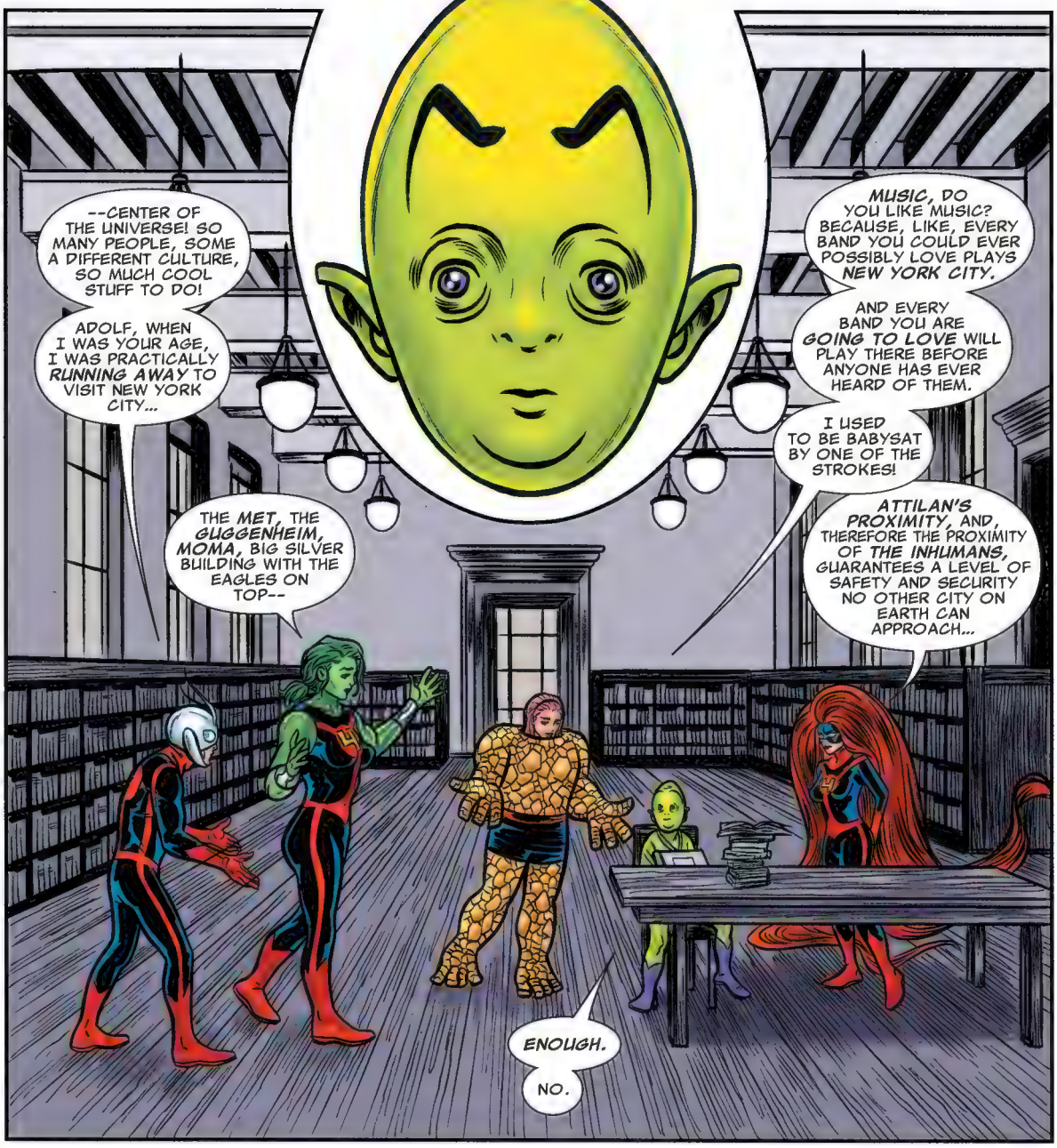
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S BEING THE RATIONAL ONE...
JENNIFER.

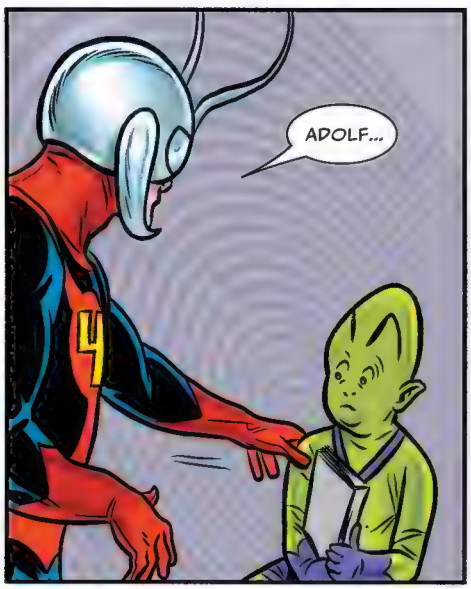
PLEASE. JUST MEET THE BOY. I EVEN GAVE HIM AN IMPOSSIBLE NAME:
ADOLF! THE IMPOSSIBLE BOY!
I MEAN, COME ON, WITH A NAME LIKE THAT, YOU'D THINK HE'D BE COMPLETELY CRAY-CRAY, RIGHT? BUT NO:


MY SON IS ENTIRELY TOO POSSIBLE.
PLEASE. JUST SPEND FIVE MINUTES WITH HIM.
...I CAN HELP YOU FIND THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
WHHHHAT?
WHERE IS YOUR SON, MR. MAN? WE'D LIKE TO MEET HIM.


"HE'S IN THE LIBRARY."
BOY, THAT IS A LOT OF CANCER.
WE'RE BEING PRANKED, RIGHT?
BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BEING PRANKED.
WE HAVE TO TAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN AT FACE VALUE FOR NOW, SCOTT...
LISTEN TO YOU.
UM... ADOLF?
ADOLF *IMPOSSIBLE?*
SHHHHHH.
ACTUARIAL TABLES. FASCINATING.
ADOLF, MY NAME IS SCOTT LANG, AND I'M *ACTING HEADMASTER* OF A KIND OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION DESIGNED AND BUILT AROUND BENEFITING CHILDREN LIKE YOURSELF.
IT'S SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A JOB AND A SCHOOL, I SUPPOSE, IF YOUR JOB WAS TRAIPSING AROUND THE UNIVERSE HAVING ADVENTURES.
THE *FUTURE FOUNDATION* IS MADE UP OF CHILDREN VERY MUCH LIKE YOURSELF WHOM WE BELIEVE WILL, ONE DAY, MAKE NOT JUST OUR WORLD BUT *ALL WORLDS* BETTER.
YOUR FATHER THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DO WELL THERE WITH US. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME VISIT OUR SCHOOL AND SEE WHAT YOU THINK?
WHERE?
EARTH. *MANHATTAN.*
I DON'T THINK SO. NEW YORK CITY IS VERY DANGEROUS.

UNIT 909?
UNIT 909! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING WEIRD DASHBOARD CAMERA VIDEOS FROM RUSSIA ON NEWTOOB ALL MORNING...
ONE MAN PUNCHED A TRUCK! CAN YOU IMAGINE?
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT.
CROSS-FIT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.
YOU CRAZY FOR THIS ONE, 909.


--CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE! SO MANY PEOPLE, SOME A DIFFERENT CULTURE, SO MUCH COOL STUFF TO DO!
ADOLF, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I WAS PRACTICALLY *RUNNING AWAY* TO VISIT NEW YORK CITY...
THE *MET*, THE *GUGGENHEIM*, *MOMA*, BIG SILVER BUILDING WITH THE EAGLES ON TOP--
MUSIC, DO YOU LIKE MUSIC? BECAUSE, LIKE, EVERY BAND YOU COULD EVER POSSIBLY LOVE PLAYS *NEW YORK CITY*.
AND EVERY BAND YOU ARE *GOING TO LOVE* WILL PLAY THERE BEFORE ANYONE HAS EVER HEARD OF THEM.
I USED TO BE BABYSAT BY ONE OF THE STROKES!
ATTILAN'S PROXIMITY, AND, THEREFORE THE PROXIMITY OF *THE INHUMANS*, GUARANTEES A LEVEL OF SAFETY AND SECURITY NO OTHER CITY ON EARTH CAN APPROACH...
ENOUGH.
NO.


ADOLF...

YA DONE MESSED UP NOW, TINY MAN.

POP!

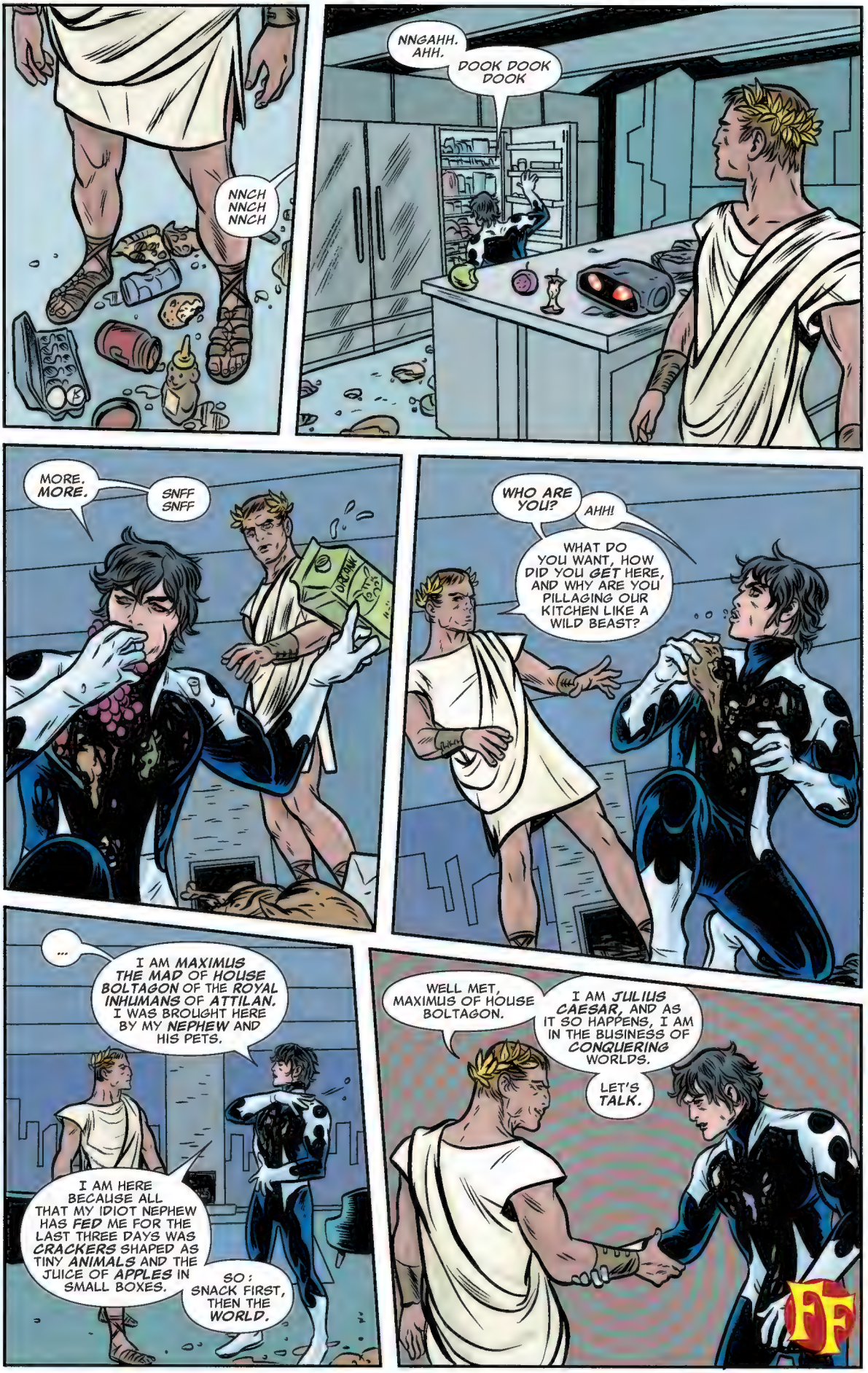
I JUST WANT TO READ MY BOOKS.
ADOLF--IT'S OKAY--
NOT THE WORD I'D USE, SCOTT--
HEY, IT'S OKAY, NEW YORK ISN'T FOR EVERYBODY--
ADOLF. CALM YOURSELF.

SOMEBODY CALL HIS OLD MAN--
JEEZ, GREAT IDEA, SCOTT.
"HEY, IMPOSSIBLE MAN!"
KRAKK!
NOPE, DIDN'T WORK--
PLEASE, PLEASE, CAN YOU PUT A CORK IN THE WITHERING SARCASM THING, JUST FOR A SECOND--
ADOLF, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU CAN HEAR ME.
I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING.
WORRIED.
I JUST GET SO WORRIED SOMETIMES.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MIGHT BE HAVING SOME WORRY THOUGHTS RIGHT NOW, ADOLF, BUT THIS RESPONSE TO THEM IS UNACCEPTABLE.
YOU...
NOBODY TALKS TO ME LIKE THAT.
THIS IS A REASON WHY WE FEEL THE FUTURE FOUNDATION COULD BE A GOOD PLACE FOR YOU.
WE WOULD LIKE TO TRY TO HELP YOU TO LEARN HOW TO RESPOND TO THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS LIKE THIS PROPERLY.
YOU SHOULD BE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY YOUNG MAN, IMPOSSIBLE, POSSIBLE, OR OTHERWISE.
BUT BEFORE YOU CAN CHOOSE THAT, YOU SIMPLY MUST LEARN HOW TO MODULATE YOUR EMOTIONS.
ADOLF?
ARE YOU LISTENING?
SOMETIMES I HATE MYSELF.
SOMETIMES I HATE MYSELF AND EVERYTHING SCARES ME.
ADOLF, WHAT IS MY JOB?

I...
WHAT?
MY JOB, ADOLF. WHAT DO YOU THINK MY JOB IS?
I AM A QUEEN, A WIFE, A SISTER, A WARRIOR...
A LEADER, A TEACHER... AND MOST OF ALL, A MOTHER.
SO WHAT IS MY JOB? IN ALL THINGS, WHAT IS MY JOB?
I DON'T...
I LITERALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU WANT ME TO SAY.
IT IS MY JOB TO *PROTECT MY CHILDREN.* DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
FROM ANYTHING. NO MATTER WHAT.
IF YOU'VE NO INTEREST IN A SCHOOL FULL OF CHILDREN LIKE YOURSELF, SO BE IT. BUT TO AVOID IT BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID--
--BECAUSE OF SELF-CREATED *WORRY*--
IS *UN-ACCEPTABLE.*
I *KNOW* YOU'RE WORRIED, SWEETHEART. *EVERYONE* FEELS WORRY.
LET ME HELP YOU LEARN HOW TO *VANQUISH* IT.
YEAH.
OKAY.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHAT?
THEY'RE, LIKE--
--PFFWEET!--
--GONE. WELL, THEY WILL BE SOON. SOON TO US. IT'S TRICKY...
THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET DRAWN OUT OF THEIR OWN TIMELINE AND INTO A PARALLEL DIMENSION. THEY'LL LITERALLY BE PULLED IN A DIRECTION YOU CAN NOT LOOK...
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, THOUGH?
LOOK, I'M A FUNNY GUY, I LOVE TO LAUGH, BUT...
WHEN YOU DO THE KIND OF CRAZY STUFF THAT I DO, MOLECULAR TRANSFORMATION, INTRA-HYPERSPACE TRANSIT, ALL THAT...
...YOU GET A KIND OF ATOMIC AWARENESS WHEN THIS STUFF GOES ON. IT'S LIKE SMELLING RAIN BEFORE IT HAPPENS. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
I CARE ABOUT YOU WEIRDOS. YOU'RE FUN TO MESS WITH. WITH YOUR CONSTANT GOINGS-ON AND SHENANIGANS AND BREAKFASTS ALL THE TIME.
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET HEAVY AND YOU NEED TO BE READY. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND YOUR FRIENDS. YOU CAN ONLY PROTECT YOURSELVES FROM THE DOOMED FUTURE.
YOU'RE BEING WEIRDLY SERIOUS RIGHT NOW.
YOU SURE YOU WANT YOUR KID TO BE WITH US?
STRIKE THAT. REVERSE IT.
I'M SURE YOU NEED TO BE WITH MY KID.
DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID AND CALL YOUR MOTHER ON SUNDAYS, SON. OKAY?
OKAY, DAD.
OKAY.
WHUPZ


NNCH NNCH NNCH
NNGAHH. AHH.
DOOK DOOK DOOK
MORE. MORE.
SNFF SNFF
WHO ARE YOU?
AHH!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, HOW DID YOU GET HERE, AND WHY ARE YOU PILLAGING OUR KITCHEN LIKE A WILD BEAST?
...
I AM MAXIMUS THE MAD OF HOUSE BOLTAGON OF THE ROYAL INHUMANS OF ATTILAN. I WAS BROUGHT HERE BY MY NEPHEW AND HIS PETS.
I AM HERE BECAUSE ALL THAT MY IDIOT NEPHEW HAS FED ME FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS WAS CRACKERS SHAPED AS TINY ANIMALS AND THE JUICE OF APPLES IN SMALL BOXES.
SO: SNACK FIRST, THEN THE WORLD.
WELL MET, MAXIMUS OF HOUSE BOLTAGON.
I AM JULIUS CAESAR, AND AS IT SO HAPPENS, I AM IN THE BUSINESS OF CONQUERING WORLDS.
LET'S TALK.
FF

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

Fantastic One! Fantastic Two! Fantastic Three! And we're back, with another Fantastic Four Fan Page! (You know, it's a shame we had to crack down on Tobias Funke's illegal, unlicensed FF musical—that theme song is kinda catchy!) Let's see what you folks have to say this month:

Dear Marvel Heroes,

John Byrne's FANTASTIC FOUR was what got me hooked on comics oh-so-long ago. Since then, though, I've never found the team's adventures to be as enjoyable as they once were. Byrne had a special talent to really humanize the characters, despite their otherworldly locales. The team has always held a special place in my heart, though, because of their great influence on me back in the early 1980s.

I'm happy to say that Matt Fraction and Mark Bagley's FANTASTIC FOUR has finally made me enjoy reading about my favorite foursome again. I'm really enjoying their newest adventures through space without being bogged down with too much science and boring fight scenes. Matt does a great job of lending personality to the characters. Similarly, Mark does an exceptional job of making the heroes attractive in appearance again, too, something that's been missing for quite some time on the old series.

Thanks for making them Fantastic again.

Best,
Eric A. Klee
Charlotte, NC

4444

Just wanted to say that the page with Tong expressing herself (in FF #6) to her brothers was one of the best and most genuinely moving pages I have ever read in a comic book.

I hope more people that might not feel like themselves get a chance to read this comic and not feel so alone.

Thanks.

-Bellan Dye
Niagara Falls, ON

We probably got more mail on that brief one-page sequence than anything else in recent issues—the majority of it overwhelmingly positive. Here's another example:

Dear Matt Fraction,
A few years ago, homosexuality was used as a comedic device more than anything. You saw commercials that were outright homophobic and it reflected upon the society. Today, while there are still anti-gay people, the world is much more welcoming to the gay community. I only hope one day the same will happen to the transgender population.

I'm transgender, and for that reason I've left this letter anonymous, not because I'm ashamed to be what I am but because it doesn't matter. I am a woman right now no matter what my genes or my past tell me.

It was just a side note of FF #6 but when Tong came out to her brothers, it really moved me. Sure, it came out of nowhere, but that's how things go. And having gone through that, I really wish everyone's family took it that well.

I don't have much to say, but I want to thank you for using a transgender character in a realistic/respectful way while others are using them to generate laughter.

Sincerely,
A Fan

Oh man!

FF #6 had such a fun nod to the Kirby/Lee days with the full-page map of the Baxter Building! The silo for the "antiquated" I.C.B.M has been flipped and become repurposed while the Observatory now has a Karaoke stage! Knowing the Allreds' fondness for song, I got a big chuckle seeing that.

Also, on page 2, panel 3... is that a Thing ring from the old Hanna-Barbara cartoon? Ha! Great!

In fact, the whole issue (just like the ones before it) was out of sight! While FANTASTIC FOUR has all the action and super science fiction, FF has all the heart. I love the new development in Tong and Quinones' portrayal of this moment had me grinning from ear to ear. The scene with the Yancy Street Gang in the "bad part of town" was terrific too.

Truthfully, there isn't a single thing negative that can be said about FF or its sister-title... except that one issue per month just isn't enough.

Matt Strawbridge
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Don't tempt us, Matt! We often have a tough enough time just getting one issue a month to the printer!

RE: Fraction and Allred's FF--the story's just not working. Fraction is trying too hard to be 'clever' rather than focus on story basics--characterization, plot etc. I know he can do better than this because he has on HAWKEYE for instance. I gave it six issues but it's just not working for me.

A Kaviraj
Sacramento, CA

Sorry you feel that way, A—but if you gave the book a half-dozen issues and it's still not doing it for you, then it's probably not the series for you. Might I suggest one of our fine AVENGERS titles as a substitute?

Dear FF team,

I've been reading both FANTASTIC FOUR and FF since issue number one and I thought it'd be a good idea to finally write in and tell you all what I think. When I first picked up FANTASTIC FOUR #1, I'll be honest, I was planning on just getting it because of the fact that it was issue #1 and I knew it'd be pretty valuable in the future but after I read it I instantly knew I was hooked. The Fantastic Four are different to me than the rest of the Marvel super heroes (Spider-Man, Captain America, Iron Man, etc.). Don't get me wrong, I love all of the Marvel heroes but it's just that these characters stood out to me because of the fact that they are a family. I can find traces of my own when I read these pages and the warm feeling I get while doing so can't really be explained in words. Matt does such a wonderful job at showing what being a family really means in both FANTASTIC FOUR and FF and I can't wait to see where he'll take these characters next.

Alexander Nagata
Bermuda Dunes, CA

Glad to have you along for the ride, Alexander!

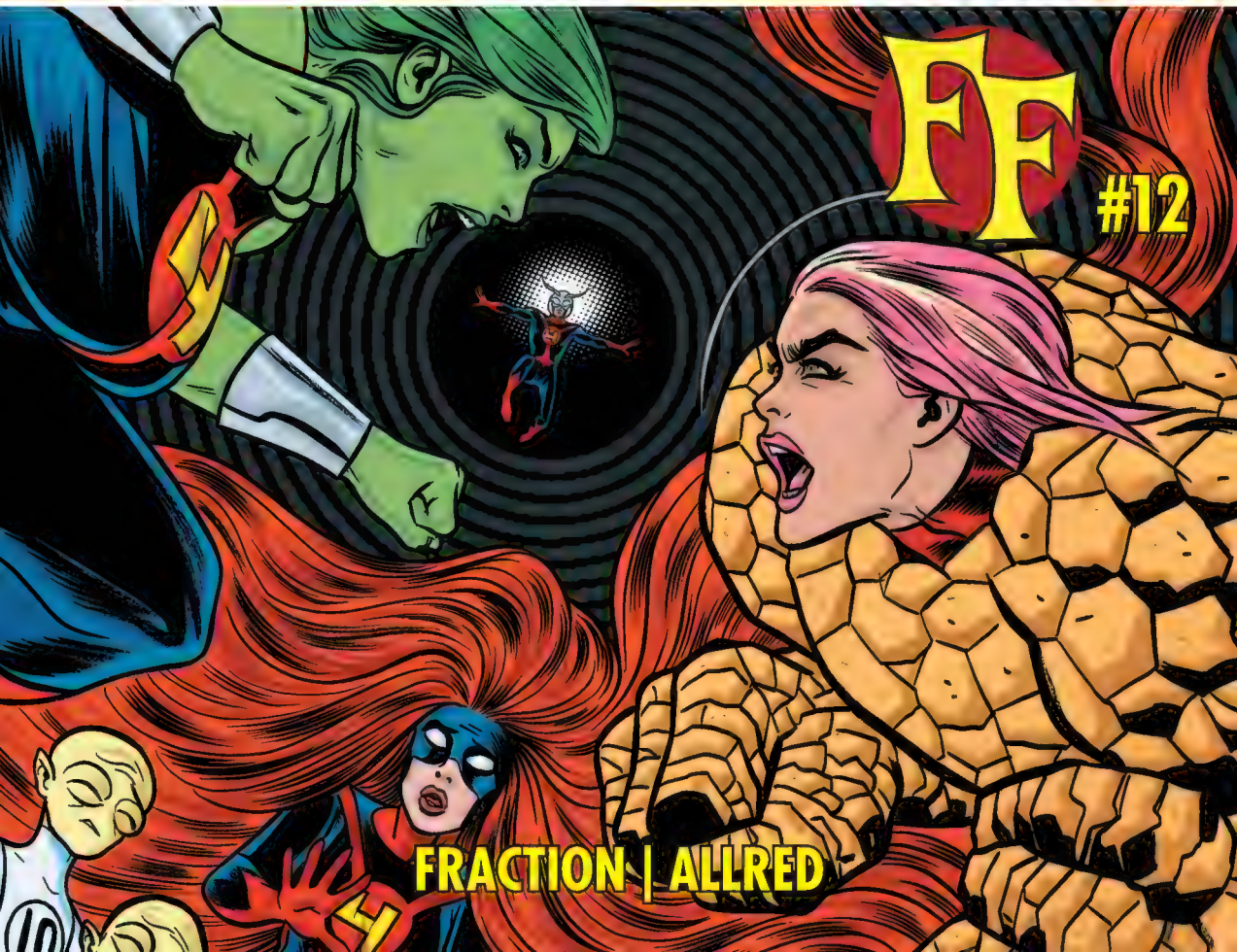
And hey! How about this? Comics creator and toy customizer Mike Tanner (whose graphic novel *Braves of the Apocalypse* will be released shortly) has crafted his own home-made FF action figures!

Back before you know it! Don't be late!

Tom B
(I've made a terrible mistake...)

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can e-mail it to us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!

FANTASTIC FOUR
#12
FRACTION | SEBELA | BAGLEY


FF
#12
FRACTION | ALLRED

MATT FRACTION
LEE ALLRED
MICHAEL ALLRED
LAURA ALLRED

012

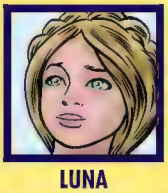
THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

While away on their cosmic family vacation, the Fantastic Four left the young and brilliant children of the Future Foundation in the care of Ant-Man, Darla Deering, Medusa and She-Hulk. However, only a scarred, traumatized older John Storm returned, claiming that the team had all died and it was Doom's fault!

Now the FF must find a way to come to their rescue, but complications abound--first, secret cosmic alien Julius Caesar recently approached the FF and told them his friends, the Fantastic Four, were unmoored in time and space, and the FF could use his space-time ship to save them. But on their first try, they were intercepted by the Impossible Man, who asked them to take his son Adolf the Impossible Boy into their school! Meanwhile, with his parents held hostage, Alex Power was blackmailed into helping Doom, who ordered him to kill old John Storm. Desperate for a solution, Alex and the FF asked Ahura's uncle Maximus the Mad for help, but the only thing they managed to do was set him free. And for better or worse, Maximus has just met Caesar...

ALEX POWER

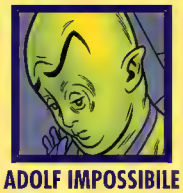
AHURA


LUNA

LEECH

ARTIE MADDICKS

BENTLEY-23


ADOLF IMPOSSIBILE

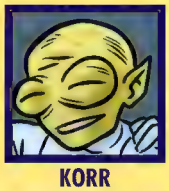
DRAGON MAN

ONOME

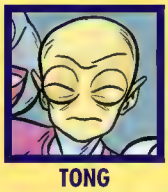
VIL

WU

MIK


KORR

TURG


TONG

MIND MISCHIEF

MATT FRACTION, LEE ALLRED AND MICHAEL ALLRED
story

LEE ALLRED
script

MICHAEL ALLRED
artist

LAURA ALLRED
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer

MICHAEL & LAURA ALLRED
cover artists

JAKE THOMAS
assistant editor

TOM BREVOORT
editor

AXEL ALONSO
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
executive producer

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
merry mischief makers

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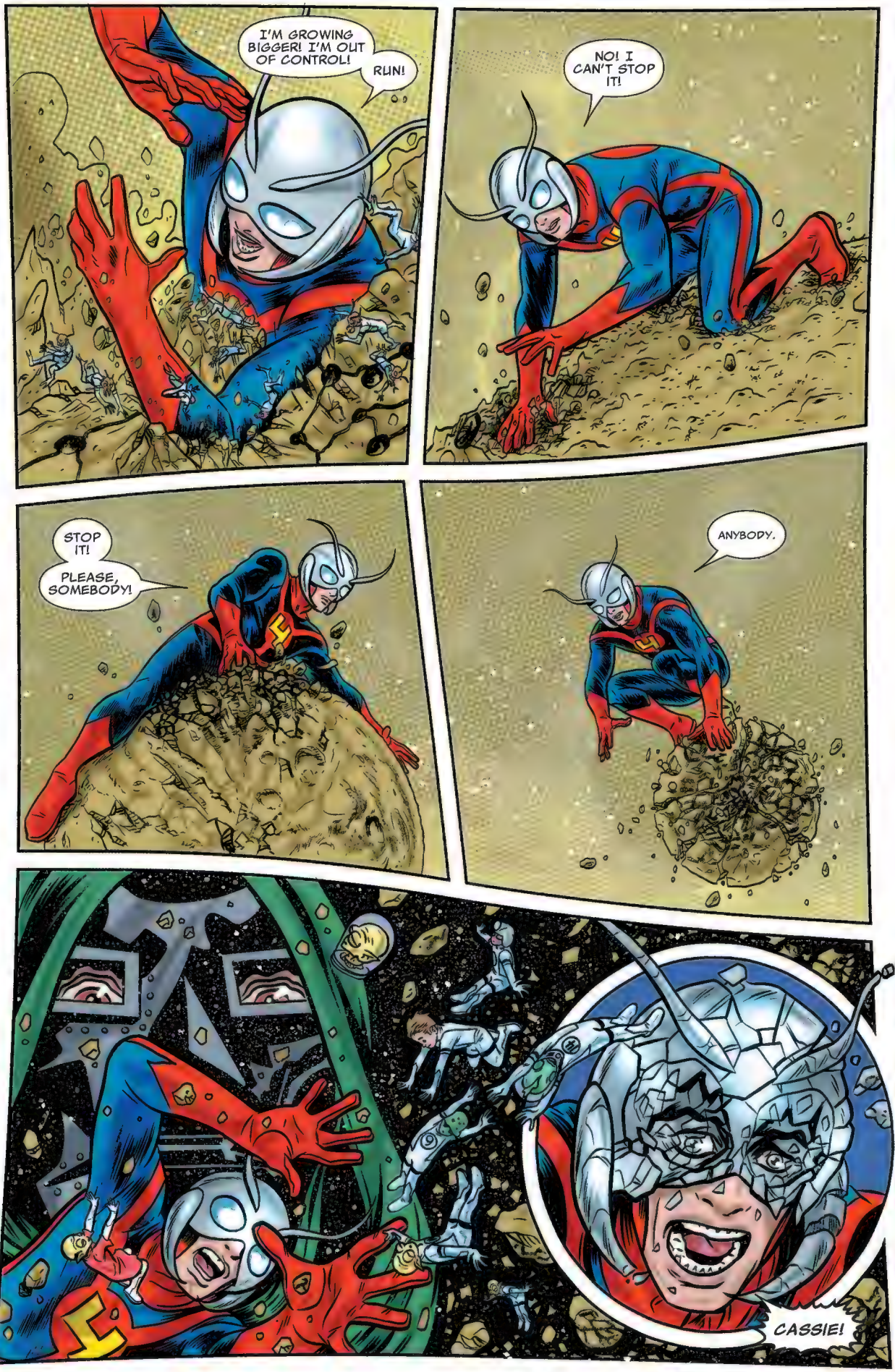
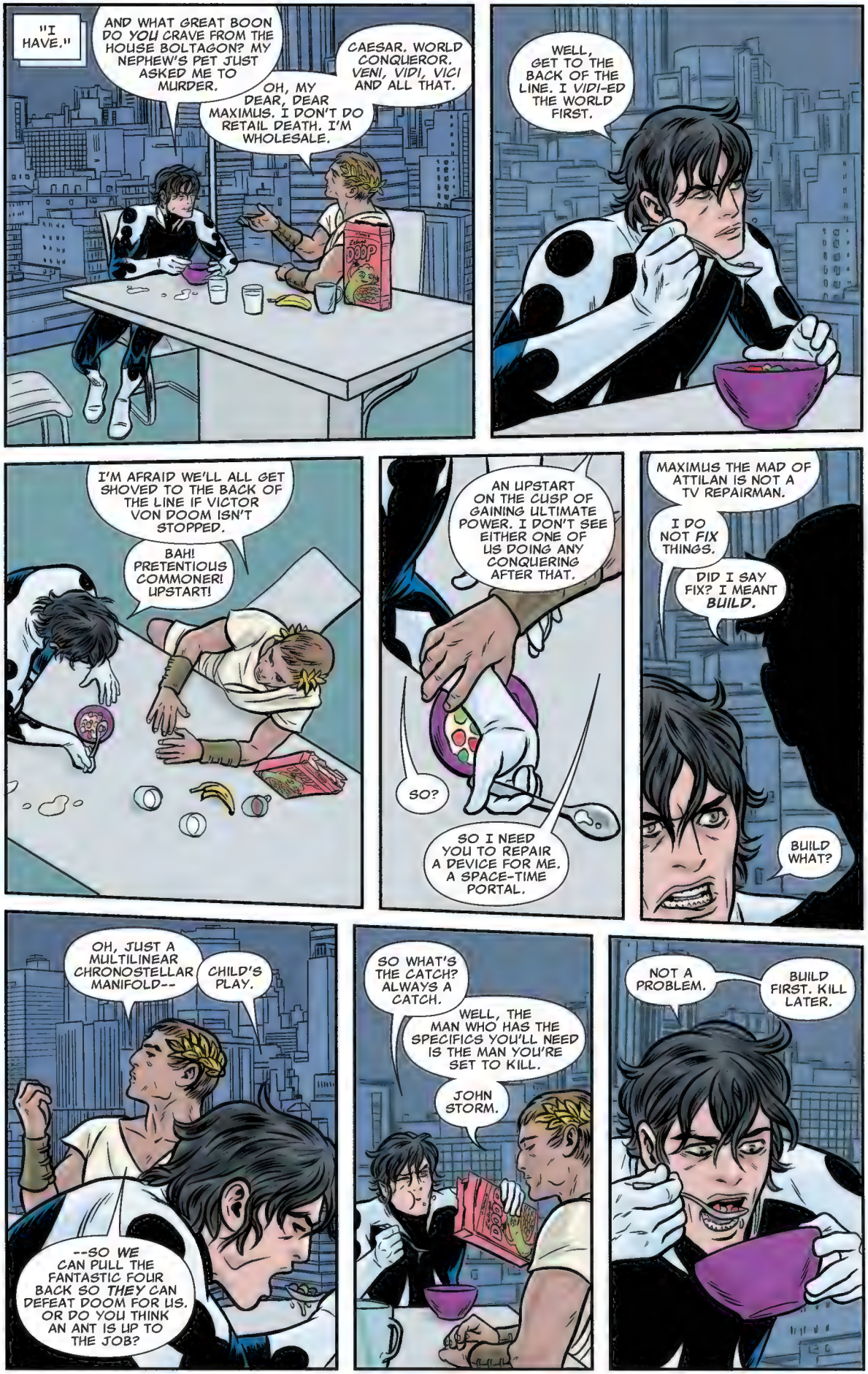
DON'T BE AFRAID. I WON'T HURT YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

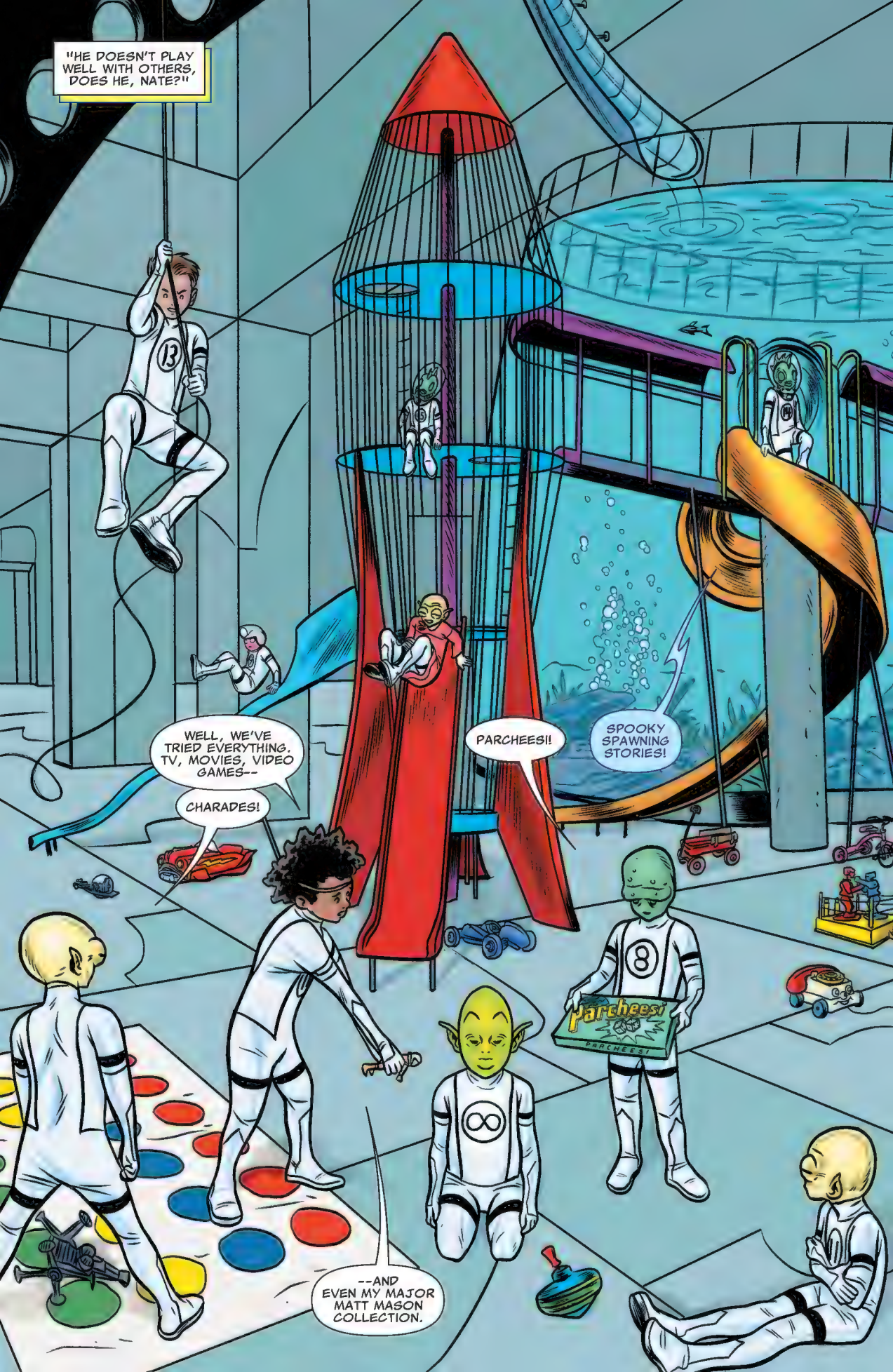

I'M GROWING BIGGER! I'M OUT OF CONTROL!
RUN!
NO! I CAN'T STOP IT!
STOP IT!
PLEASE, SOMEBODY!
ANYBODY.
CASSIE!

NO, SCOTT!
YOU!
DON'T DO IT, SCOTT!
STOP!
YOU KILLED HER!
SHOOK!
YOU KILLED MY CASSIE.
"NO, DADDY.
"YOU MURDERED ME.
"YOU MURDERED ME."

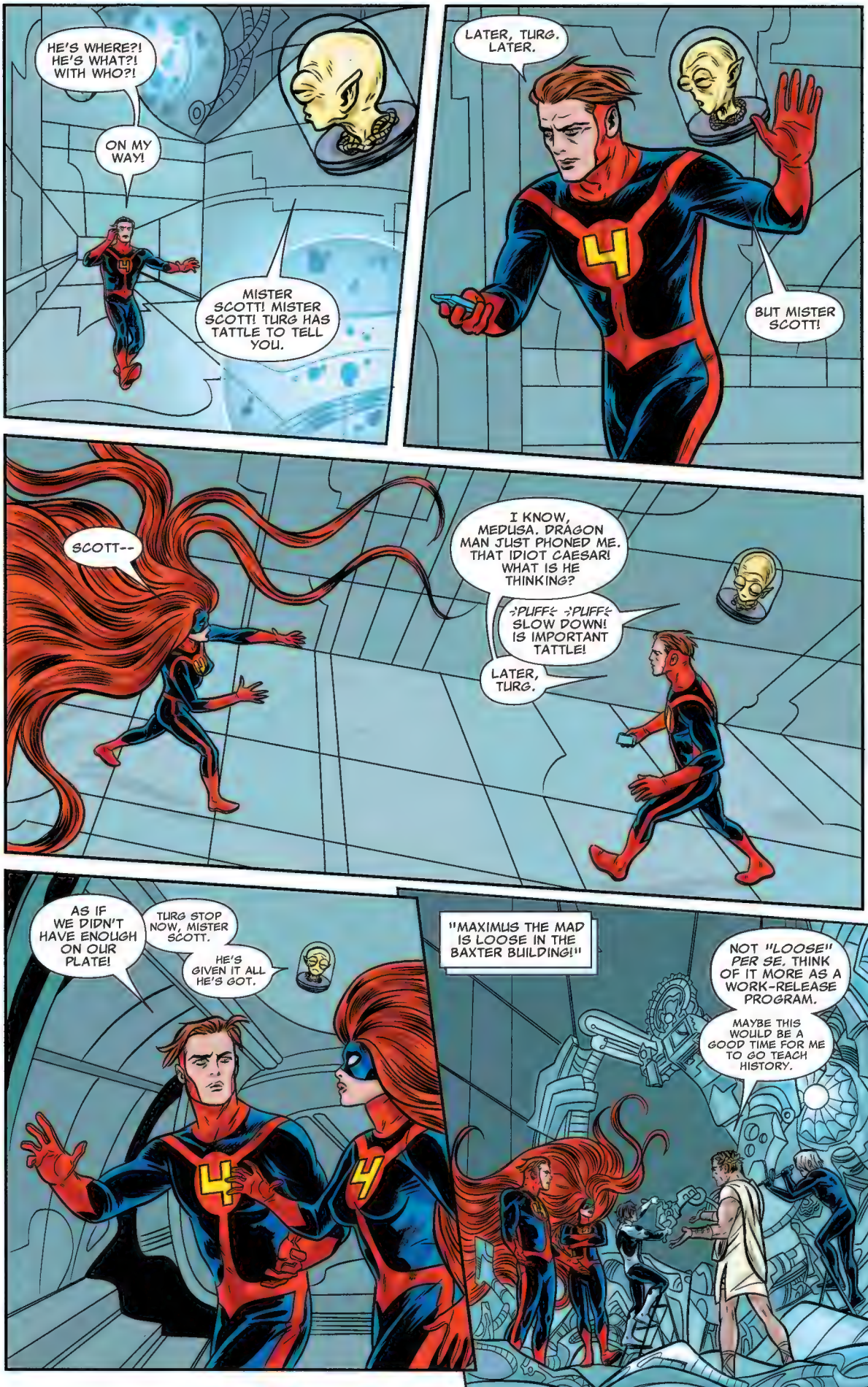
NOOOOO!
HUHHH
HUHHH
SCOTT?
OH, SCOTT.
HAVE YOU EVER KILLED SOMEONE, DARLA?


"I HAVE."
AND WHAT GREAT BOON DO YOU CRAVE FROM THE HOUSE BOLTAGON? MY NEPHEW'S PET JUST ASKED ME TO MURDER.
OH, MY DEAR, DEAR MAXIMUS. I DON'T DO RETAIL DEATH. I'M WHOLESALE.
CAESAR. WORLD CONQUEROR. VENI, VIDI, VICI AND ALL THAT.
WELL, GET TO THE BACK OF THE LINE. I VIDI-ED THE WORLD FIRST.
I'M AFRAID WE'LL ALL GET SHOVED TO THE BACK OF THE LINE IF VICTOR VON DOOM ISN'T STOPPED.
BAH! PRETENTIOUS COMMONER! UPSTART!
AN UPSTART ON THE CUSP OF GAINING ULTIMATE POWER. I DON'T SEE EITHER ONE OF US DOING ANY CONQUERING AFTER THAT.
SO?
SO I NEED YOU TO REPAIR A DEVICE FOR ME, A SPACE-TIME PORTAL.
MAXIMUS THE MAD OF ATTILAN IS NOT A TV REPAIRMAN.
I DO NOT FIX THINGS.
DID I SAY FIX? I MEANT BUILD.
BUILD WHAT?
OH, JUST A MULTILINEAR CHRONOSTELLAR MANIFOLD--
CHILD'S PLAY.
--SO WE CAN PULL THE FANTASTIC FOUR BACK SO THEY CAN DEFEAT DOOM FOR US. OR DO YOU THINK AN ANT IS UP TO THE JOB?
SO WHAT'S THE CATCH? ALWAYS A CATCH.
WELL, THE MAN WHO HAS THE SPECIFICS YOU'LL NEED IS THE MAN YOU'RE SET TO KILL.
JOHN STORM.
NOT A PROBLEM.
BUILD FIRST. KILL LATER.

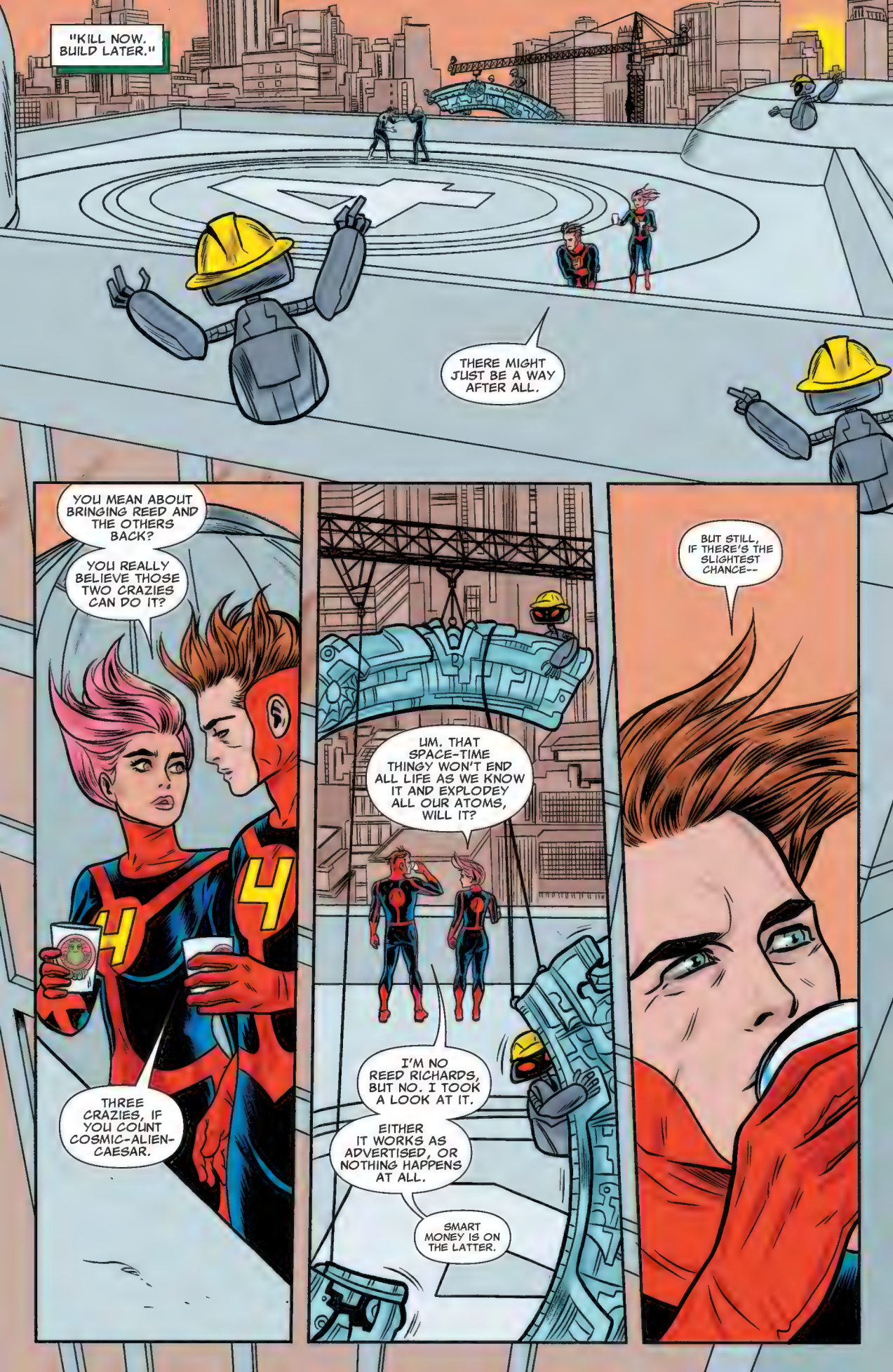
SO. JOHN STORM LIVES TO BUILD THE PORTAL.
SEE, DOOM? DESTINY ROLLS ON, A CAREENING STONE UNSHAPEABLE BY HUMAN HANDS.
EVEN YOURS.
BAH!
MY PLOY TO STOP STORM WAS MERELY A WHIM. AN IDLE AMUSEMENT.
TELL YOURSELF WHATEVER LIES COMFORT YOU. YOU TRIED TO STOP OUR COMBINED DESTINY AND FAILED.
DOOM THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR SHALL--MUST--ARISE.
SO YOU SAY. HIDE BEHIND WHATEVER NAME YOU WILL--KANG, RAMA-TUT, SCARLET CENTURION, IRON LAD OR IMMORTUS--YOUR WRITTEN DESTINY IS TO FAIL.
VICTOR VON DOOM MAKES HIS OWN DESTINY.
THWUMP
OUT OF MY WAY, YOU USELESS, CHITINOUS LARVA!
-TTCCHHKT!-

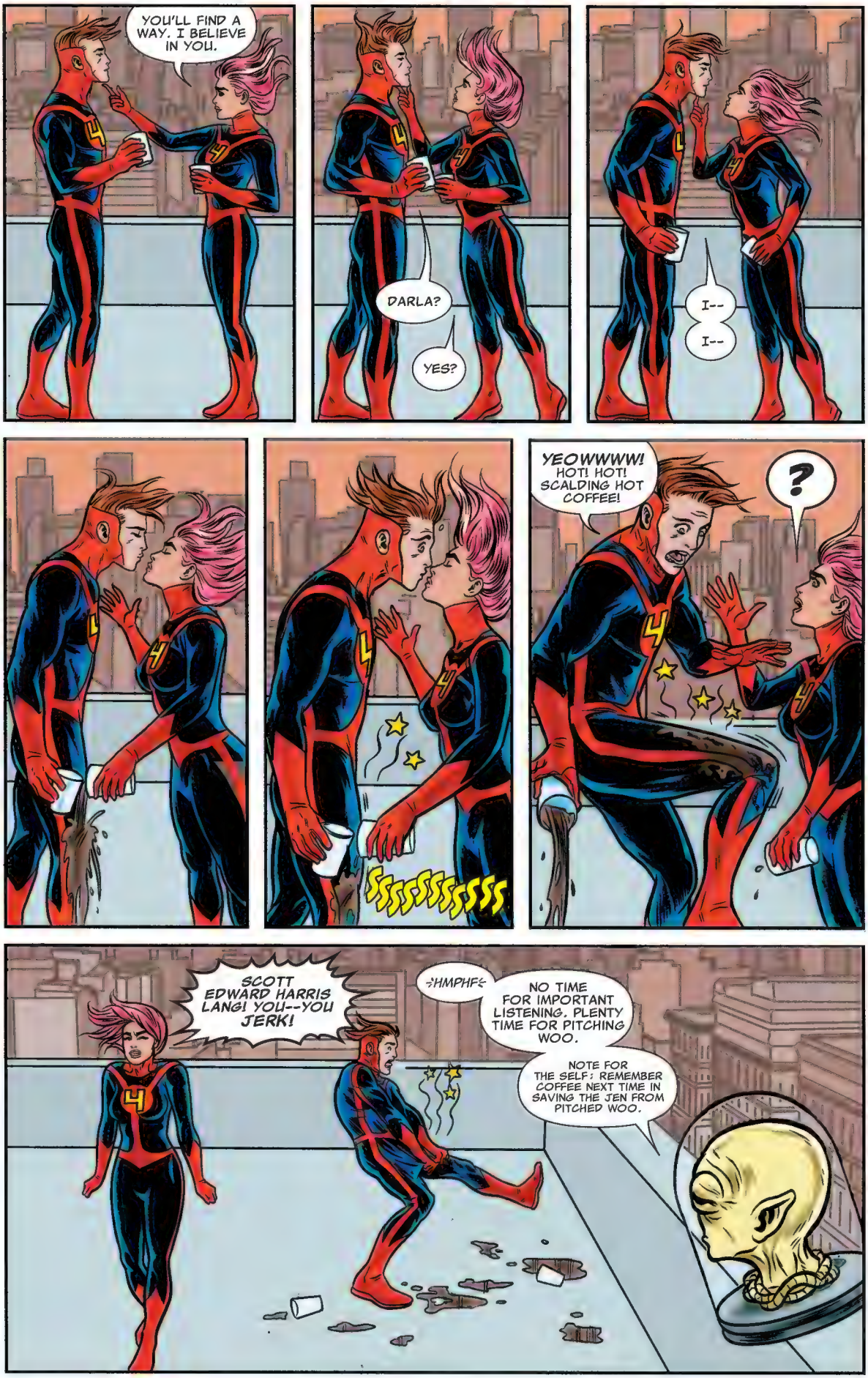

"HE DOESN'T PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS, DOES HE, NATE?"
WELL, WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING. TV, MOVIES, VIDEO GAMES--
CHARADES!
PARCHEESI!
SPOOKY SPAWNING STORIES!
Parcheesi
--AND EVEN MY MAJOR MATT MASON COLLECTION.

IT'S OFFICIAL. ADOLF IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING BUT A BUMP ON A LOG.
BUMPY, BUMPY LOG.
LOG WITH A BUMP.
KING LOG! KING STORK!
13
10
15
4
:KOFF:
11
HEY, KIDS! COMICS!
11
FANTASTIC FOUR


HE'S WHERE?! HE'S WHAT?! WITH WHO?!
ON MY WAY!
MISTER SCOTT! MISTER SCOTT! TURG HAS TATTLE TO TELL YOU.
LATER, TURG. LATER.
BUT MISTER SCOTT!
SCOTT--
I KNOW, MEDUSA. DRAGON MAN JUST PHONED ME. THAT IDIOT CAESAR! WHAT IS HE THINKING?
-PUFF- -PUFF- SLOW DOWN! IS IMPORTANT TATTLE!
LATER, TURG.
AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH ON OUR PLATE!
TURG STOP NOW, MISTER SCOTT.
HE'S GIVEN IT ALL HE'S GOT.
"MAXIMUS THE MAD IS LOOSE IN THE BAXTER BUILDING!"
NOT "LOOSE" PER SE. THINK OF IT MORE AS A WORK-RELEASE PROGRAM.
MAYBE THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR ME TO GO TEACH HISTORY.

"YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY: STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO ATTEND HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT."
TURG KNOWS WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER ALEX!
YOUR REPEATED FAILURE IS UNACCEPTABLE, SLAVE. STORM STILL LIVES.
WE ARE NOT AMUSED.
I HAD IT ALL COVERED WITH MAXIMUS. NOT MY FAULT CAESAR BUTTED IN.
LET THIS BE A LESSON ON THE DEPENDABILITY OF LACKEYS, LACKEY.
HOWEVER, CALL IT A... WHIM...BUT THIS PORTAL OF THEIRS INTRIGUES ME.
"THEN I DON'T NEED TO KILL JOHN STORM AFTER ALL? LET HIM BUILD THE PORTAL?"
I SPECIFICALLY TOLD YOU NO CRUSTS ON MY SANDWICHES, CHURL!
NO, ALEX POWER. STEAL THE PLANS SO I CAN BUILD ONE. AND KILL JOHN STORM AS PLANNED.


"KILL NOW. BUILD LATER."
THERE MIGHT JUST BE A WAY AFTER ALL.
YOU MEAN ABOUT BRINGING REED AND THE OTHERS BACK?
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THOSE TWO CRAZIES CAN DO IT?
THREE CRAZIES, IF YOU COUNT COSMIC-ALIEN-CAESAR.
UM. THAT SPACE-TIME THINGY WON'T END ALL LIFE AS WE KNOW IT AND EXPLODEY ALL OUR ATOMS, WILL IT?
I'M NO REED RICHARDS, BUT NO. I TOOK A LOOK AT IT.
EITHER IT WORKS AS ADVERTISED, OR NOTHING HAPPENS AT ALL.
SMART MONEY IS ON THE LATTER.
BUT STILL, IF THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE--


YOU'LL FIND A WAY. I BELIEVE IN YOU.
DARLA?
YES?
I--
I--
YEOWWWW! HOT! HOT! SCALDING HOT COFFEE!
?
SSSSSSSSSS
SCOTT EDWARD HARRIS LANG! YOU--YOU JERK!
:HMPHF:
NO TIME FOR IMPORTANT LISTENING. PLENTY TIME FOR PITCHING WOO.
NOTE FOR THE SELF: REMEMBER COFFEE NEXT TIME IN SAVING THE JEN FROM PITCHED WOO.

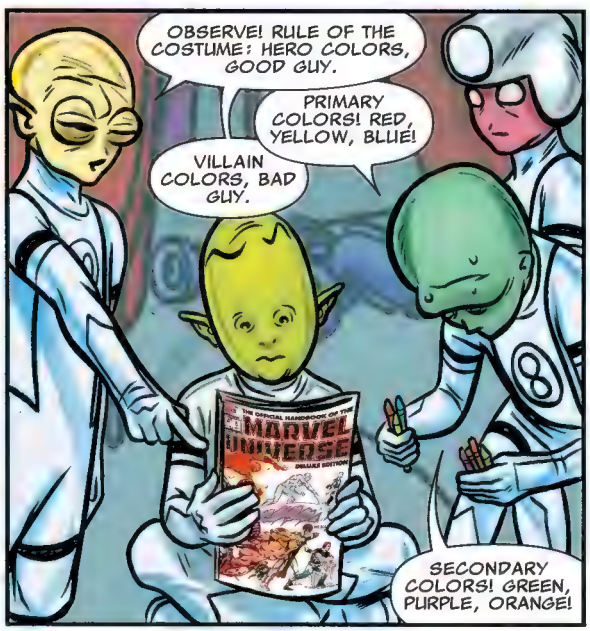
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
FANTASTIC FOUR
MAKE MONEY
GET PRIZES

MY FATHER IS NOT A SUPER VILLAIN.

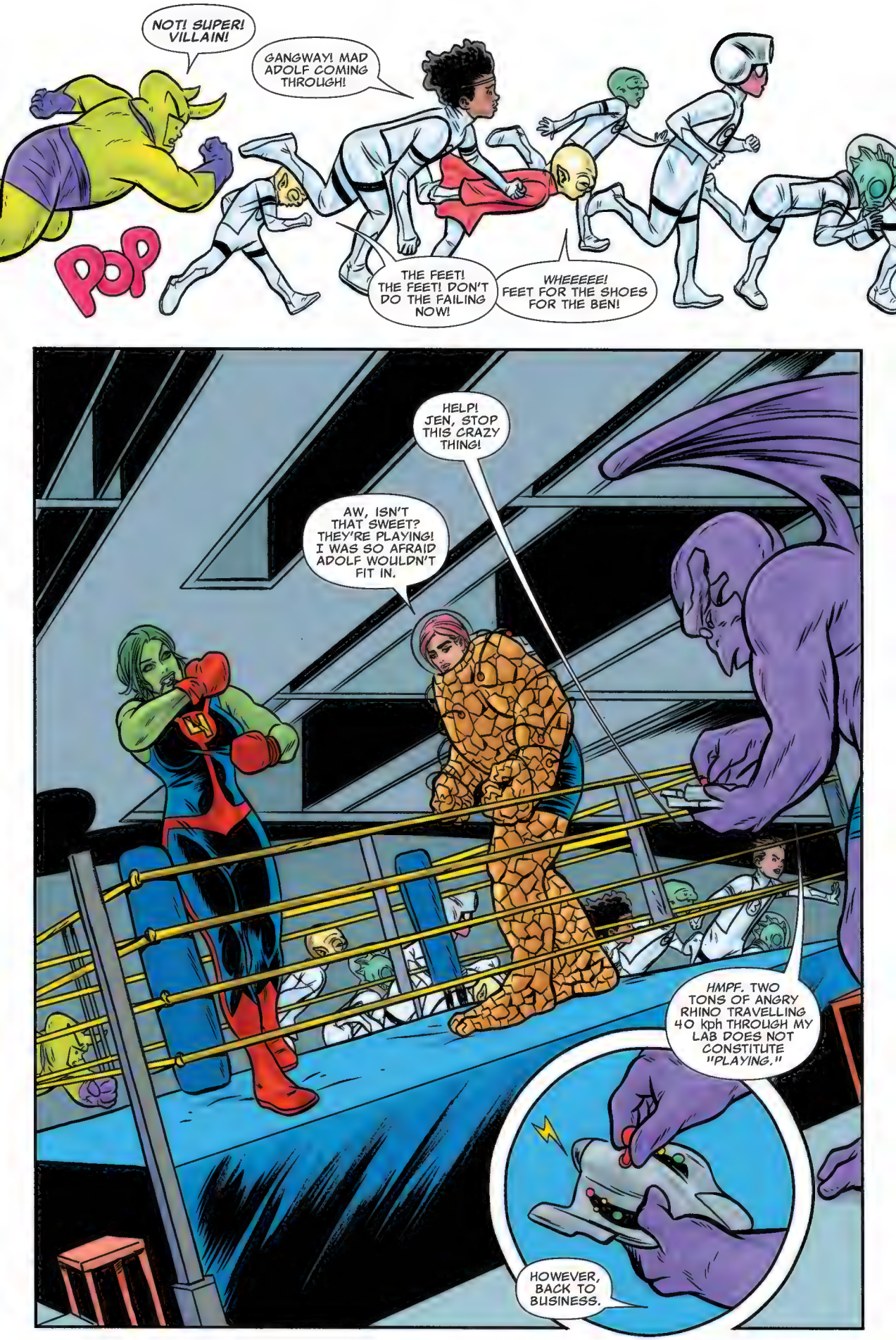
ARE YOU KIDDING?! THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN IS ONE OF THE CLASSICS!
HE RANKS RIGHT UP THERE WITH PASTE POT PETE AND FIN FANG FOOM!

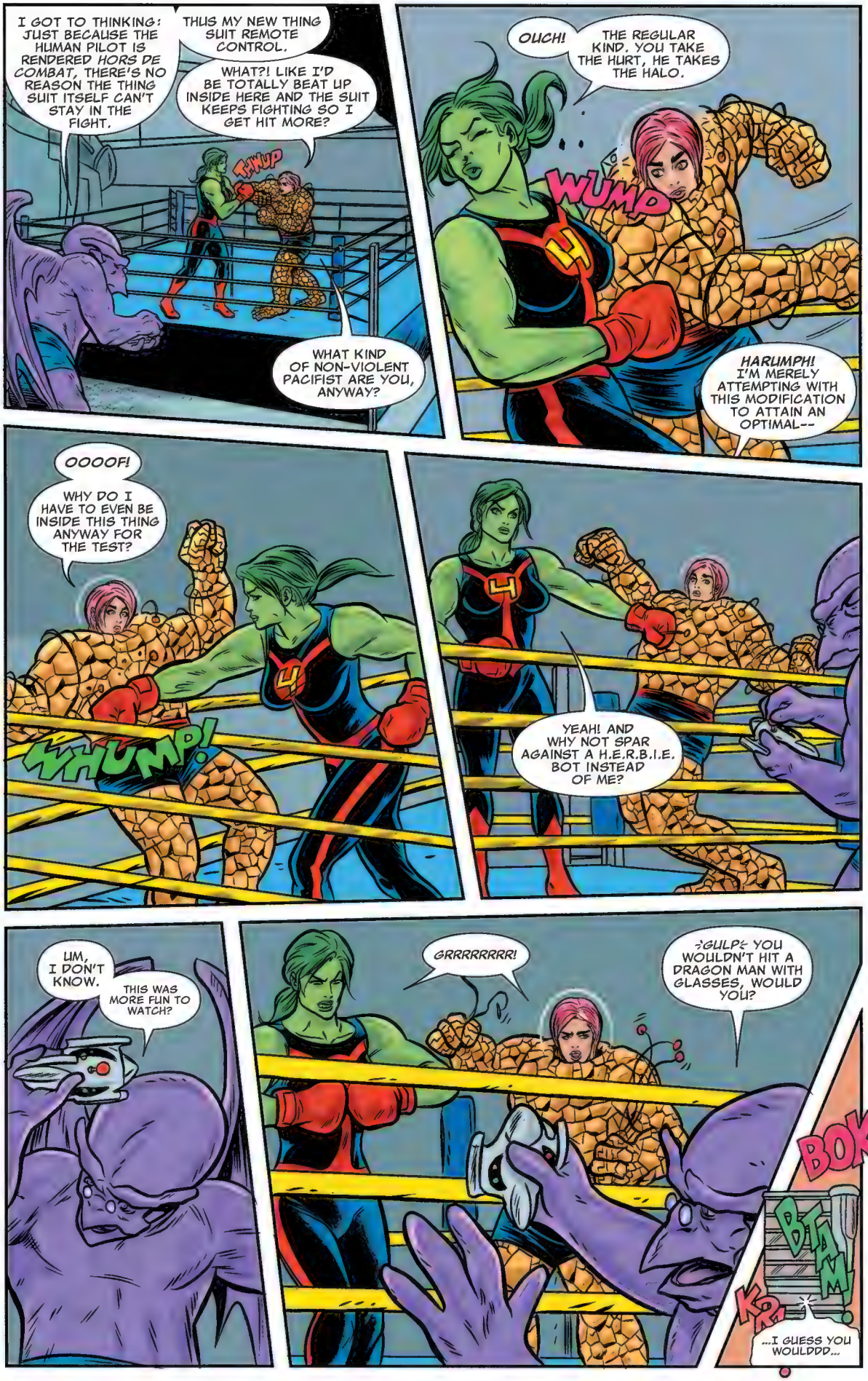
NOT. SUPER. VILLAIN.

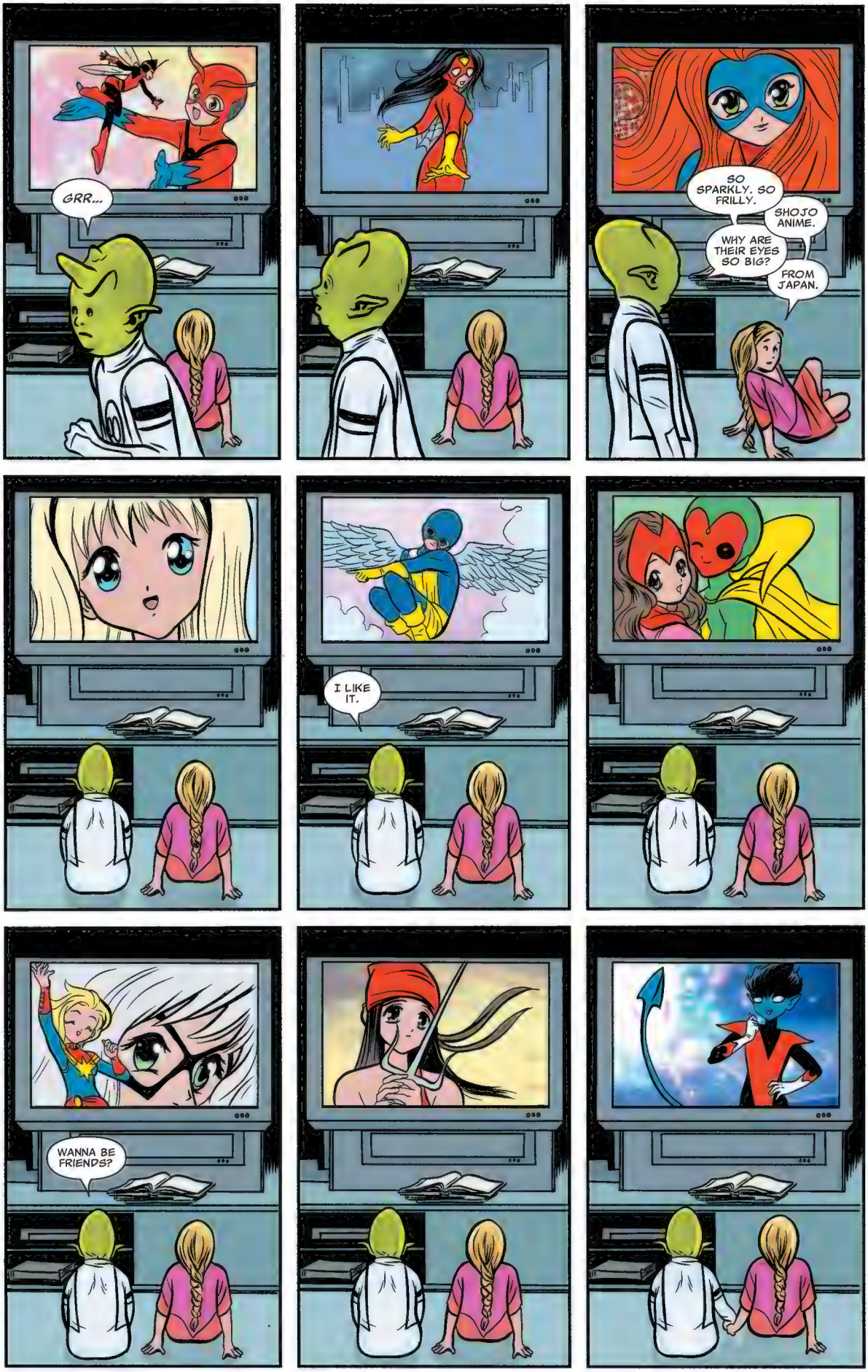
DISSENT REQUIRED. INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION OF FATHER-BADNESS.
CONCLUSIVE CONCLUSION!
PRECLUDES OTHER CONCLUDING!
MARVEL UNIVERSE


OBSERVE! RULE OF THE COSTUME: HERO COLORS, GOOD GUY.
PRIMARY COLORS! RED, YELLOW, BLUE!
VILLAIN COLORS, BAD GUY.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE
SECONDARY COLORS! GREEN, PURPLE, ORANGE!

IRON MAN, SPIDER-MAN, THOR. RED-YELLOW-BLUE. GOOD.
GREEN GOBLIN. PURPLE-GREEN. BAD.
X-MEN. GOOD.
SKRULLS. BAD.
KANG. BAD.
ANNIHILUS. BAD.
DOOM. BAD.
DOOM THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR. EVEN MORE BAD IF HAPPEN.
MYSTERIO. BAD.
HULK. BAD. USUALLY.
MOLE MAN. HATE HIM SO MUCH. BAD.
MISTER SCOTT ANT-MAN. GOOD.
IMPOSSIBLE MAN FATHER. PURPLE-GREEN. BAD.


NOT! SUPER! VILLAIN!
GANGWAY! MAD ADOLF COMING THROUGH!
POP
THE FEET! THE FEET! DON'T DO THE FAILING NOW!
WHEEEEE! FEET FOR THE SHOES FOR THE BEN!
HELP! JEN, STOP THIS CRAZY THING!
AW, ISN'T THAT SWEET? THEY'RE PLAYING! I WAS SO AFRAID ADOLF WOULDN'T FIT IN.
HMPF. TWO TONS OF ANGRY RHINO TRAVELLING 40 kph THROUGH MY LAB DOES NOT CONSTITUTE "PLAYING."
HOWEVER, BACK TO BUSINESS.


I GOT TO THINKING: JUST BECAUSE THE HUMAN PILOT IS RENDERED HORS DE COMBAT, THERE'S NO REASON THE THING SUIT ITSELF CAN'T STAY IN THE FIGHT.
THUS MY NEW THING SUIT REMOTE CONTROL.
WHAT?! LIKE I'D BE TOTALLY BEAT UP INSIDE HERE AND THE SUIT KEEPS FIGHTING SO I GET HIT MORE?
THWUP
WHAT KIND OF NON-VIOLENT PACIFIST ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
OUCH!
THE REGULAR KIND. YOU TAKE THE HURT, HE TAKES THE HALO.
WUMP
HARUMPH! I'M MERELY ATTEMPTING WITH THIS MODIFICATION TO ATTAIN AN OPTIMAL--
OOOOF!
WHY DO I HAVE TO EVEN BE INSIDE THIS THING ANYWAY FOR THE TEST?
WHUMP!
YEAH! AND WHY NOT SPAR AGAINST A H.E.R.B.I.E. BOT INSTEAD OF ME?
UM, I DON'T KNOW.
THIS WAS MORE FUN TO WATCH?
GRRRRRRRR!
:GULP: YOU WOULDN'T HIT A DRAGON MAN WITH GLASSES, WOULD YOU?
BOK!
BIAM
KO!
...I GUESS YOU WOULDDD...


GRR...
SO SPARKLY. SO FRILLY.
SHOJO ANIME.
WHY ARE THEIR EYES SO BIG?
FROM JAPAN.
I LIKE IT.
WANNA BE FRIENDS?

THERE! THAT'S THE VERY LAST BOLT.
HMMM. SURE THERE'S NOT ONE MISSING?
BOLTAGON.
I'LL GO ROUND UP THE KIDS. DON'T FIRE IT UP BEFORE I GET BACK.
AND TRY NOT TO KILL EACH OTHER WHILE I'M GONE.
BOLT-A-GONE, GET IT? HA, HA, HA! I CRACK MYSELF UP.
TIME TO BRING THE RICHARDS FAMILY HOME.
YOUR CATSPAW BEST HURRY. ONLY MINUTES LEFT BEFORE THE PORTAL OPENS.
AFTER THAT, KILLING JOHN STORM WON'T MATTER. THE CYCLE WON'T NEED HIM ANYMORE.
BAH! WHEN OR IF I ACT IS MY CHOICE. MINE, DO YOU HEAR ME? NOT SOME "DESTINY."
EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE IS PREDESTINED. EVERY WORD YOU UTTER IN DENIAL IS ALREADY ECHOING DOWN THE ETERNITIES.
STORM WILL OPEN THE PORTAL. THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL STEP THROUGH WITH THE KEY TO DEFEATING YOU, DOOM.
YOUR FATAL WEAKNESS.
A WEAKNESS ONLY BECOMING DOOM THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR CAN OVERCOME.

"BAH! DOOM HAS NO WEAKNESSES."
VELCOME BACK 4
THIS IS YOUR BABY. WHAT SAY YOU KICK THE TIRES AND TAKE IT FOR A SPIN?
FLIP THAT SWITCH AND BRING THEM HOME.
THE MOMENT BEFORE HE PULLS THAT SWITCH...
THE MOMENT AFTER HE PULLS THAT SWITCH...
THE MOMENT HE PULLS THAT SWITCH...
THE MOMENT...

THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
OBVIOUSLY.

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

Man, I just cannot seem to get caught up on this Fan Page! Here we are on issue #12 of both FF titles, and I'm still dealing with mail from several months ago! Guess it's just a credit to the diligence and consistency with which you readers have been expressing yourselves concerning our efforts—and make no mistake, we love it! Anyway, here's what you guys were thinking about back at the dawn of time:

Modern Family:

Man, what a perfect comic was FF #7 -- the imaginative intricacy yet narrative logic of Mike's crazy jigsaw panels and whirlwind layouts and careful details make me feel like I'm experiencing for the first time what it must have been like to read Kirby's FANTASTIC FOUR at the very moment he was having the most fun with it. Laura's colors are at new frontiers too; the twin use of nebula-tones and bold ben-day is like collapsing the two ends of comics' newsprint and holographic universes into a whole new reality. Loved that the plot turned out to be nothing more than a super-powered custody battle by a deranged Wizard -- the one thing he's right about is that there *isn't* anything more than family, and in real life these are the kinds of struggles that our whole worlds really balance on. The layered feelings between Darla and Scott are one of the only grown-up love stories in pop let alone comics; Fraction's got an ear for the human that makes super worth striving for.

Adam McGovern
Mount Tabor, NJ

4 4 4 4

Dear FF people,

Thank you for such fun books. I love Fraction's style. Great storytelling, humor included, but still serious and meaningful too. Bagley and Allred are two of the great working artists of the modern era. I also thought Joe Quinones did a fantastic job on FF #6. Make mine Marvel Comic books and super heroes!

Brooks Bowden

We dug what (the other) Joe Q did on FF #6 as well, Brooks, which is why we had him back for #9! And depending on how the future goes, I wouldn't be surprised to see him in these pages again!

Dear FF Team,
I am very happy and inspired by Michael and Laura Allred's contribution to Marvel. I just read through FF #1 - 5 and feel an awe of what comics can do when they're made with such intriguing/captivating art and storylines. I am a fan of 60s and 70s Marvel, and it takes a special quality now to make me buy comics again. I wish all comics were as wonderful as the FF w/ Matt, Michael and Laura. It really speaks my language. My complete support and best regards.

Patrick Glassel

4 4 4 4

Mr. Wacker,

Mr. Fraction and the Allred household oughta know that they didn't just knock the "I worry about all of you" moment from FF #7 out of the park, they put a hole in the scoreboard while they were at it.

Please tell 'em what they do is delightful.

Sincerely,
James Hepplewhite

Will do, James! (Though I may never forgive you for mixing me up with Steve Wacker!)

Dear Future Foundation,

I have been consuming cartoons and comics for longer than I care to remember. I was brought up on a healthy diet of vintage sixties Hanna Barbara. Candy colored visions set to the tunes of bebop jazz; like Jonny Quest, the Herculoids and Space Ghost. Middle school was a stream of Claremont melodrama and Marv Wolfman tales played out to the crafted images of John Byrne and George Perez. Comics were extraordinary, and that was the root to Marvel: the extra next to the ordinary.

I have to thank Matt, Michael and Laura for their combined efforts. All of these different elements have come together and have exceeded the sum of their parts. The FF is like a love letter to my childhood. It is "old school comic book cool." The writing is whimsical yet compelling; the art is stylish and masterful. Mike's drawing is inspired and Laura seems to be channeling Roy Lichtenstein, it's like the pages should be blown up as canvases. Props on the cover of #7, a contemporary version to the Jack Kirby Negative Zone collage.

This is what contemporary comics should be like. Not these endless melodramas of badassery (I just totally made up that word). I do not need cosmic threats every month. Flying has become so mundane that wings have to be metal and shoot razor feathers. Having Medusa's eyelashes and face hair attack Ant-Man, ingenious. Reinvigoration and exploration is much better than reconstruction when it comes to characters. That is what makes this an interesting and provocative team. And surprise, it's done without Wolverine. Marvel's strength has been its infusion of the times into its story. This is what made its characters competitive with the iconic characters of DC. Marvel used to be a movement not a fad. However this gem of a book is one that is timeless and classic and for that I thank you. I look forward to adding the hardcover trades to my shelves and forwarding the comics to those in the "know."

Sincerely,
Calvin C. Bethea

Thanks for all the kind words, Calvin! But honesty compels us to mention that the cover to FF #7 that you liked so much was actually a homage to John Buscema and Joe Sinnott's work on the cover of FANTASTIC FOUR #109 from back in 1971.

I am loving what is going on in FANTASTIC FOUR. I don't always understand it, but I love it. I have said for years that the Thing is my favorite super hero of all time. Has been since my first issue of FANTASTIC FOUR #149 from 1974. I have been in love with FANTASTIC FOUR ever since. What I want to say is that FANTASTIC FOUR #8 easily has some of my most favorite ever-lovin' blue-eyed' Thing art in it. It is some of the best looking Thing scenes ever. The story is not so bad either. But the love (my first love to reading comics) is the art, and this has it. Not that the story is bad, but the art is out of the ballpark! Thanks Mark, Mark and Joe for making this ol' reader very happy. And no disregard to you Matt, you tell a great story, too! Keep up the great work guys!!!

Duane Lindsey
Teacher, student, philosopher, and living in the great state of Michigan!

And let's not forget to mention colorist Paul Mounts, whose expert hues keep FANTASTIC FOUR looking lovely month after month.

Tom B
8/13/13

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can e-mail it to us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!

FANTASTIC FOUR
#13
FRACTION | KESEL | BAGLEY

FF
#13
FRACTION | ALLRED | ALLRED

MATT FRACTION
LEE ALLRED
MICHAEL ALLRED
LAURA ALLRED

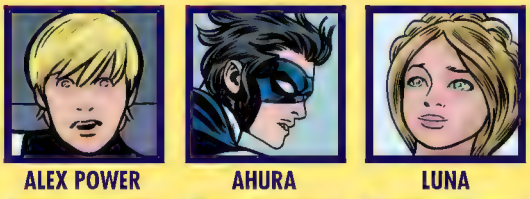
013

THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

While away on their cosmic family vacation, the Fantastic Four left the young and brilliant children of the Future Foundation in the care of Ant-Man, Darla Deering, Medusa and She-Hulk. Soon after the Fantastic Four left, a scarred, traumatized older John Storm returned, claiming the team had all died at the hand of Doom, the Annihilating Conqueror!

Cosmic alien Julius Caesar requested Ahura's uncle Maximus the Mad help to build a multilinear chronostellar manifold to retrieve the Fantastic Four after The Impossible Man intercepted the last rescue attempt in order to get his son Adolf the Impossible Boy into their school.

Meanwhile, with his parents held hostage, Alex Power was blackmailed into helping Doom, who ordered him to steal the plans for the chronostellar manifold and kill Old John Storm. When the portal activated, the entire FF disappeared in a blinding flash of light, much to the surprise of Doom and his cabal, Kid Immortus, Teen Annihilus and Ravona.

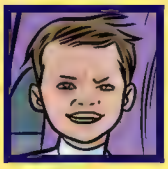

ALEX POWER

AHURA

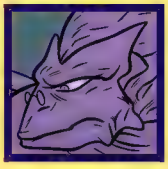
LUNA

LEECH

ARTIE MADDICKS


BENTLEY-23

ADOLF IMPOSSIBLE


DRAGON MAN

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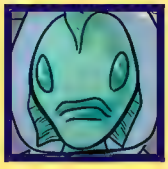
VIL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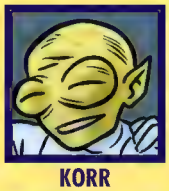
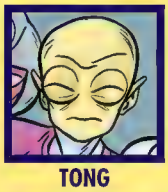

KORR

TURG


TONG

MOLOID SEE, MOLOID DO

MATT FRACTION & LEE ALLRED
story

LEE ALLRED
script

MICHAEL ALLRED
artist

LAURA ALLRED
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer

MICHAEL & LAURA ALLRED
cover artists

JAKE THOMAS
assistant editor

TOM BREVOORT
editor

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editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
executive producer

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
vini vidi vici

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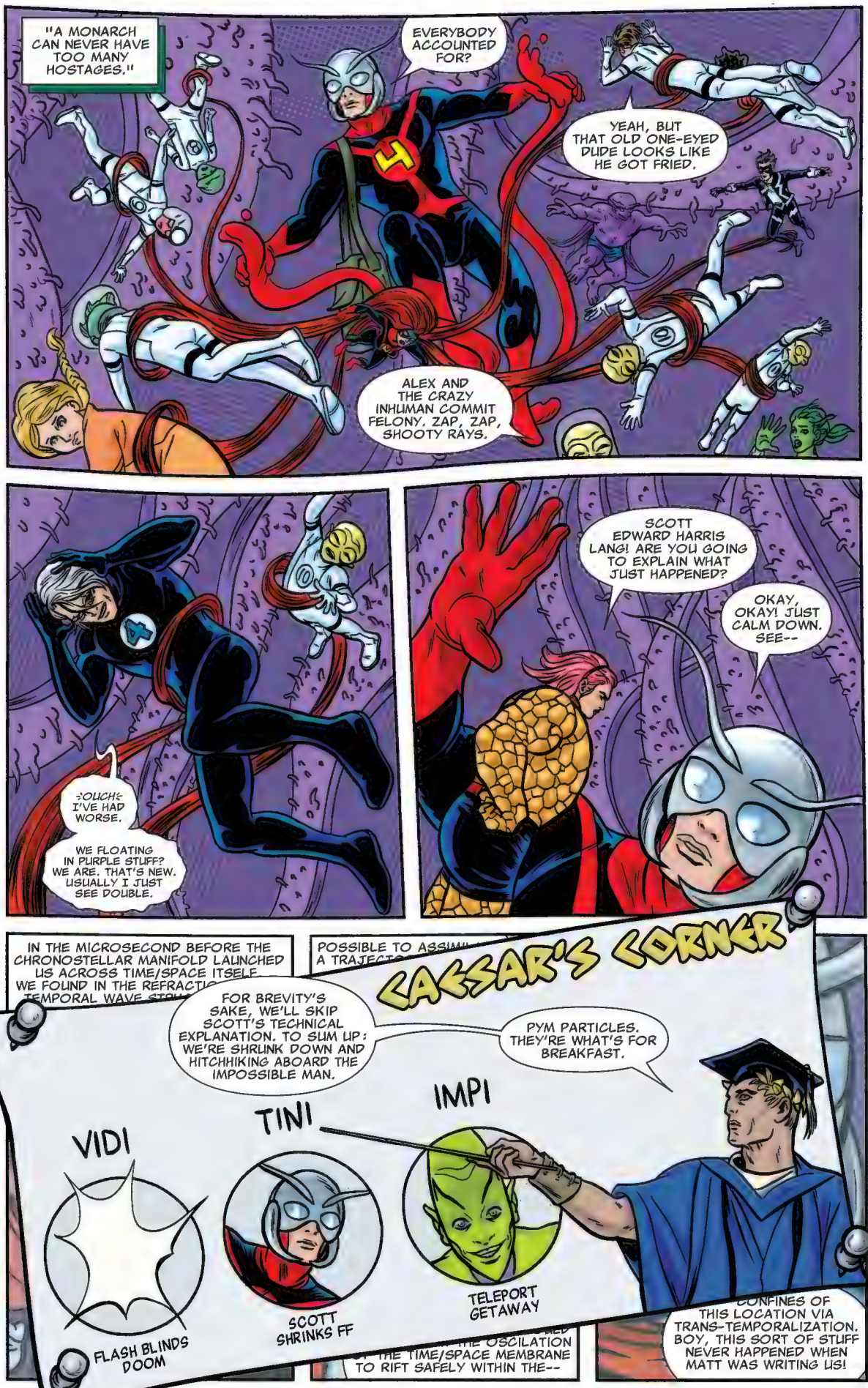
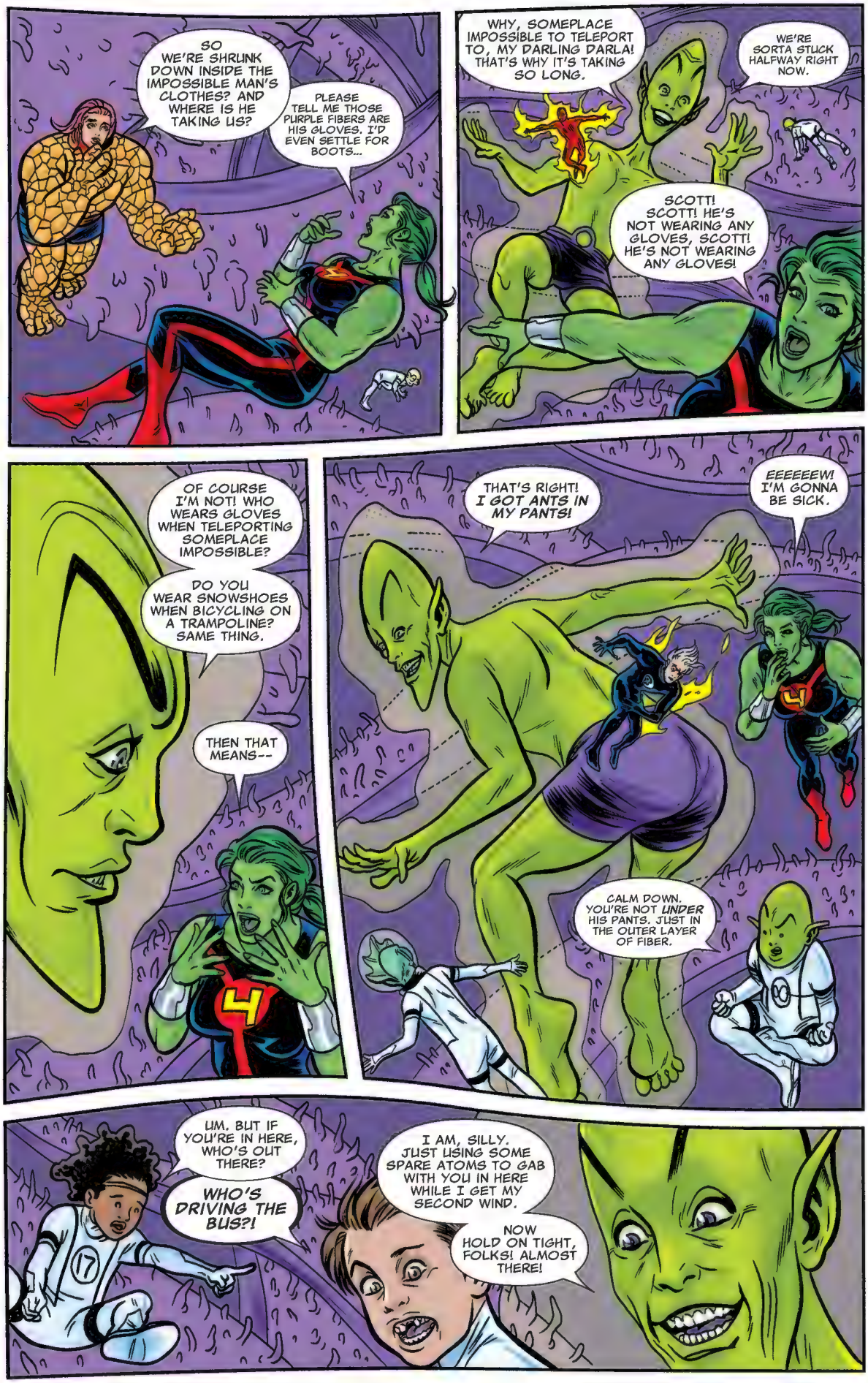
FWASSSHH!
:LURP!: GONNA HURL!
AIM FOR BENTLEY, THEN!
WHOA!
HEY!
SCOTT! WHAT HAPPENED?
START GRABBING THE KIDS, MEDUSA. I'LL EXPLAIN IN A MINUTE. RIGHT NOW--

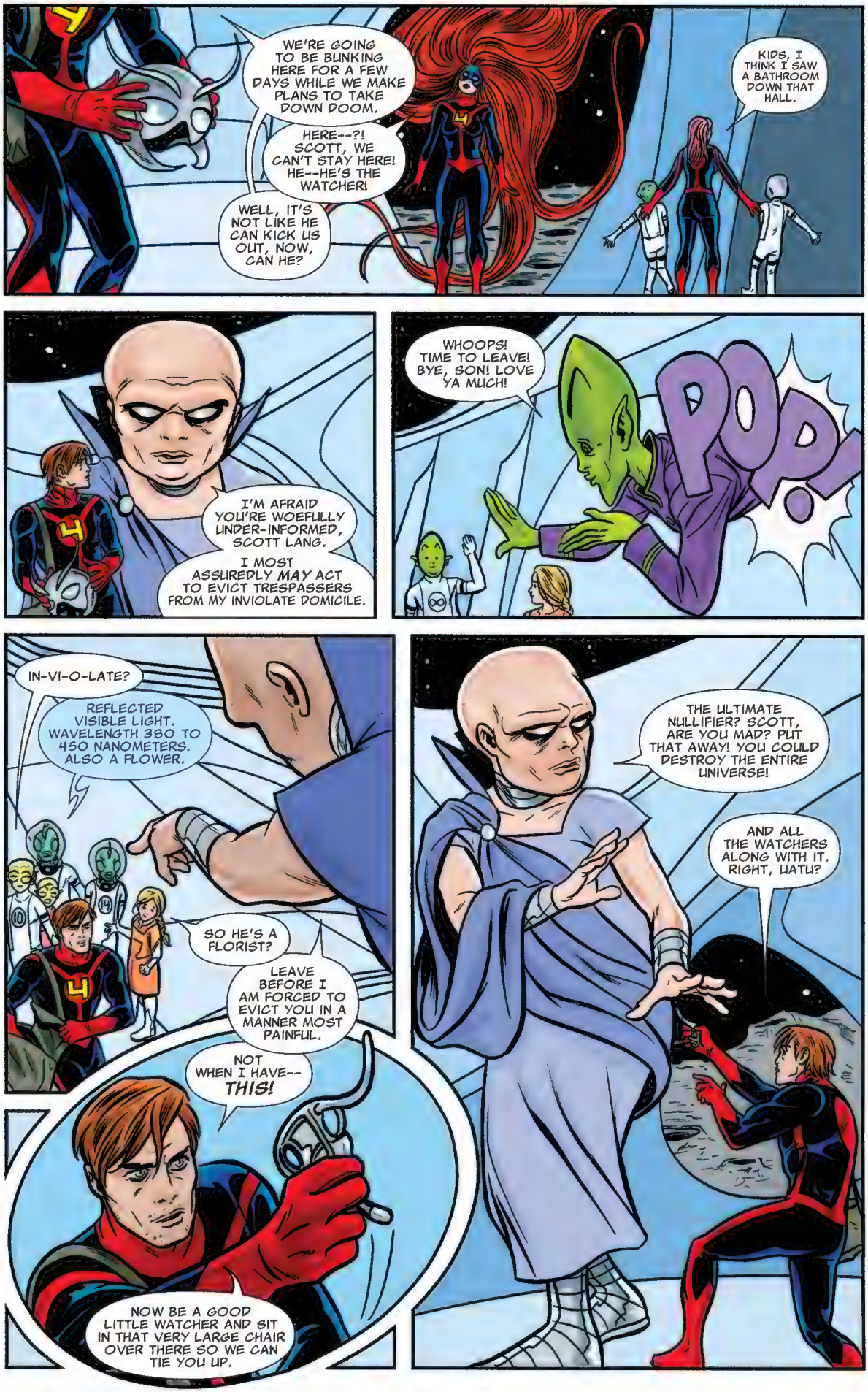
--I'M A LITTLE BUSY--
--PUTTING A LID ON THINGS.
C'MERE, YOU LITTLE TROUBLEMAKER.
LABEL SAYS THE BOTTLE'S CHILDPROOF. SHOULD BE JERKPROOF, TOO.
WHERE ARE WE?
I KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
WITH ANY LUCK, AND IF I'VE PULLED IT OFF RIGHT...

"...SOMEPLACE DOOM AND COMPANY CAN'T TRACK US."
IMBECILE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?
I MEAN I DON'T KNOW.
THAT BLINDING FLASH WAS THE PRELIMINARY STAGE OF OPENING A MULTILINEAR CHRONOSTELLAR MANIFOLD, THE LOCAL FORMATION OF A 1.6 SECOND NULL-TIME BUBBLE.
THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO SCAN INTO THAT.
WAS THE PORTAL ACTIVATED?
I DON'T KNOW.
DID THE POWERS CHILD MANAGE TO KILL STORM?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE ARE LANG AND THE OTHERS? DO THEY STILL EXIST?
I DON'T KNOW.
WAS THIS LANG'S DOING? AN ACCIDENT? A THIRD PARTY?
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T *KNOW.* THE TIMESTREAM AS I KNEW IT--IT'S ALL IN FLUX RIGHT NOW.
YOU WERE USEFUL FOR ONE REASON AND ONE REASON ONLY, "KID IMMORTUS": YOU KNEW PRECISELY WHAT WAS ABOUT TO UNFOLD. AND NOW YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT!
:GLURRK!: GO AHEAD, DOOM. KILL ME.
SOMEBODY JUST DERAILED THE TIMESTREAM AND YOU WANT TO KILL YOUR EXPERT.
MAYBE YOU DO HAVE A USE. PROPERLY MOTIVATED, OF COURSE.
GUARDS! THROW THIS RAVONA FEMALE IN WITH THE POWERS COUPLE.

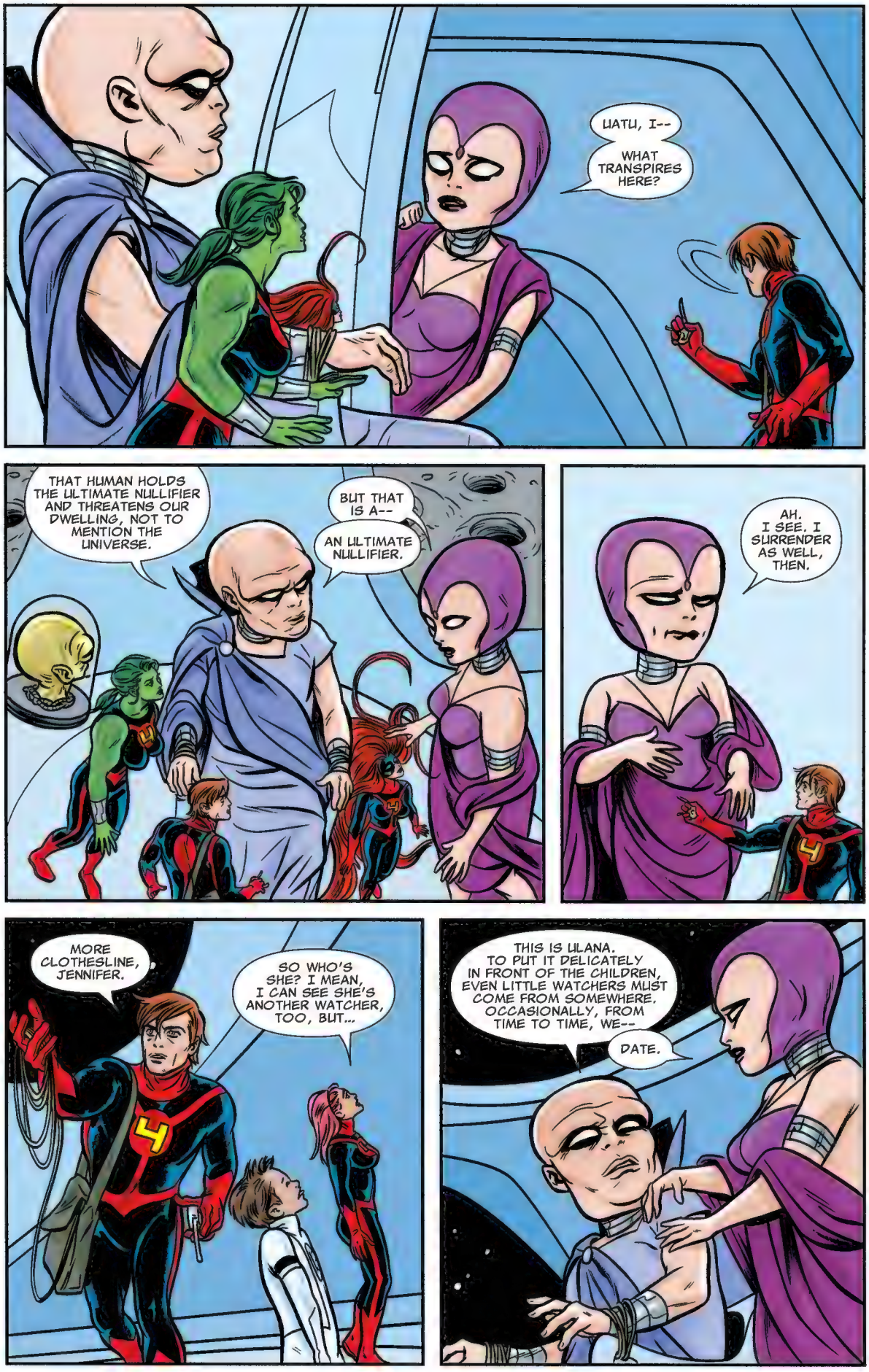

"A MONARCH CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY HOSTAGES."
EVERYBODY ACCOUNTED FOR?
YEAH, BUT THAT OLD ONE-EYED DUDE LOOKS LIKE HE GOT FRIED.
ALEX AND THE CRAZY INHUMAN COMMIT FELONY. ZAP, ZAP, SHOOTY RAYS.
SCOTT EDWARD HARRIS LANG! ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
OKAY, OKAY! JUST CALM DOWN. SEE--
OUCH! I'VE HAD WORSE.
WE FLOATING IN PURPLE STUFF? WE ARE. THAT'S NEW. USUALLY I JUST SEE DOUBLE.
CAESAR'S CORNER
IN THE MICROSECOND BEFORE THE CHRONOSTELLAR MANIFOLD LAUNCHED US ACROSS TIME/SPACE ITSELF
WE FOUND IN THE REFRACTI
TEMPORAL WAVE
POSSIBLE TO ASSIM
A TRAJECT
FOR BREVITY'S SAKE, WE'LL SKIP SCOTT'S TECHNICAL EXPLANATION. TO SUM UP: WE'RE SHRUNK DOWN AND HITCHHIKING ABOARD THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN.
PYM PARTICLES. THEY'RE WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST.
VIDI
TINI
IMPI
FLASH BLINDS DOOM
SCOTT SHRINKS FF
TELEPORT GETAWAY
OF THE TIME/SPACE MEMBRANE TO RIFT SAFELY WITHIN THE--
CONFINES OF THIS LOCATION VIA TRANS-TEMPORALIZATION. BOY, THIS SORT OF STUFF NEVER HAPPENED WHEN MATT WAS WRITING US!

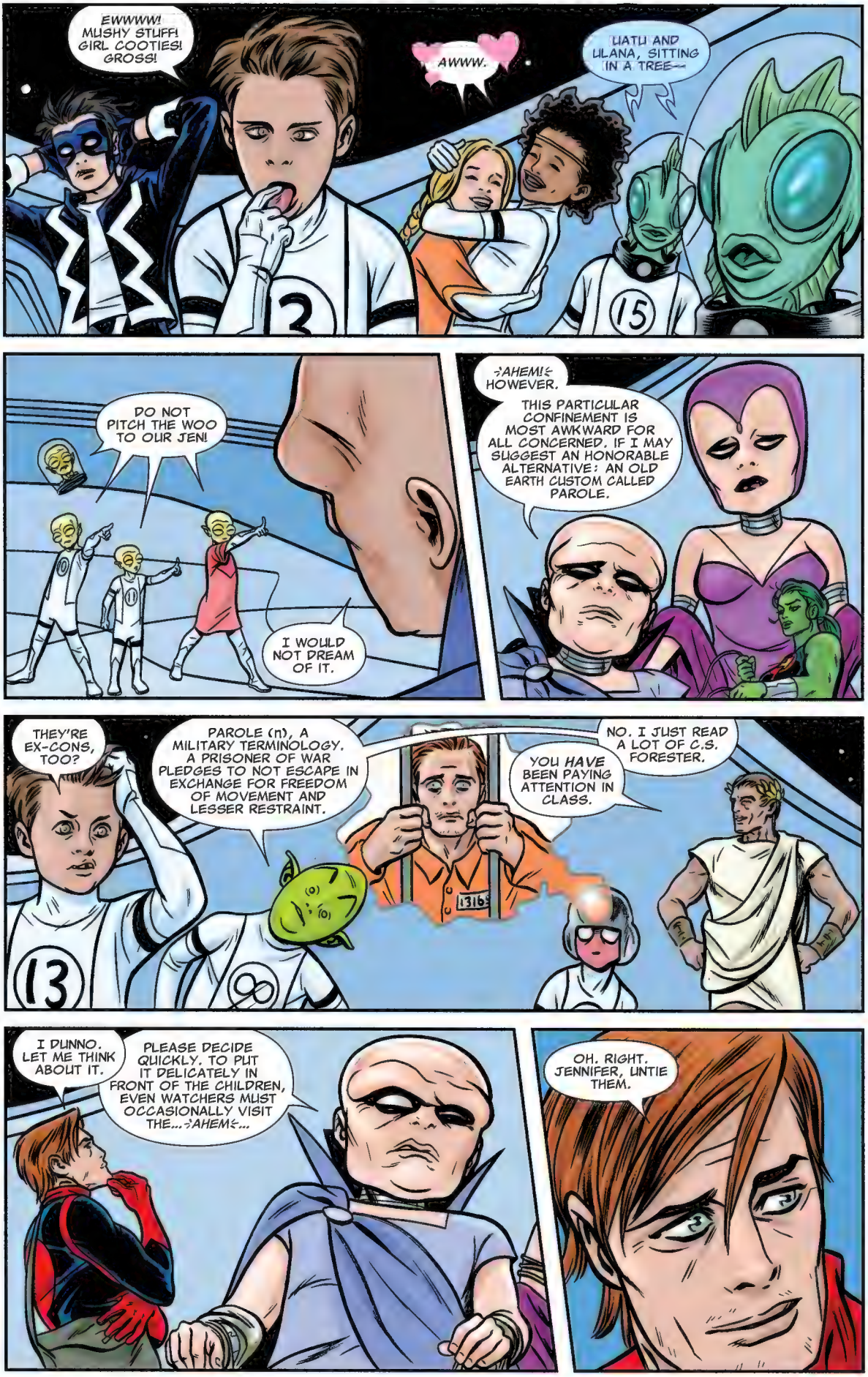

SO WE'RE SHRUNK DOWN INSIDE THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN'S CLOTHES? AND WHERE IS HE TAKING US?
PLEASE TELL ME THOSE PURPLE FIBERS ARE HIS GLOVES. I'D EVEN SETTLE FOR BOOTS...
WHY, SOMEPLACE IMPOSSIBLE TO TELEPORT TO, MY DARLING DARLA! THAT'S WHY IT'S TAKING SO LONG.
WE'RE SORTA STUCK HALFWAY RIGHT NOW.
SCOTT! SCOTT! HE'S NOT WEARING ANY GLOVES, SCOTT! HE'S NOT WEARING ANY GLOVES!
OF COURSE I'M NOT! WHO WEARS GLOVES WHEN TELEPORTING SOMEPLACE IMPOSSIBLE?
DO YOU WEAR SNOWSHOES WHEN BICYCLING ON A TRAMPOLINE? SAME THING.
THEN THAT MEANS--
THAT'S RIGHT! I GOT ANTS IN MY PANTS!
EEEEEEEW! I'M GONNA BE SICK.
CALM DOWN. YOU'RE NOT UNDER HIS PANTS. JUST IN THE OUTER LAYER OF FIBER.
UM. BUT IF YOU'RE IN HERE, WHO'S OUT THERE?
WHO'S DRIVING THE BUS?!
I AM, SILLY. JUST USING SOME SPARE ATOMS TO GAB WITH YOU IN HERE WHILE I GET MY SECOND WIND.
NOW HOLD ON TIGHT, FOLKS! ALMOST THERE!

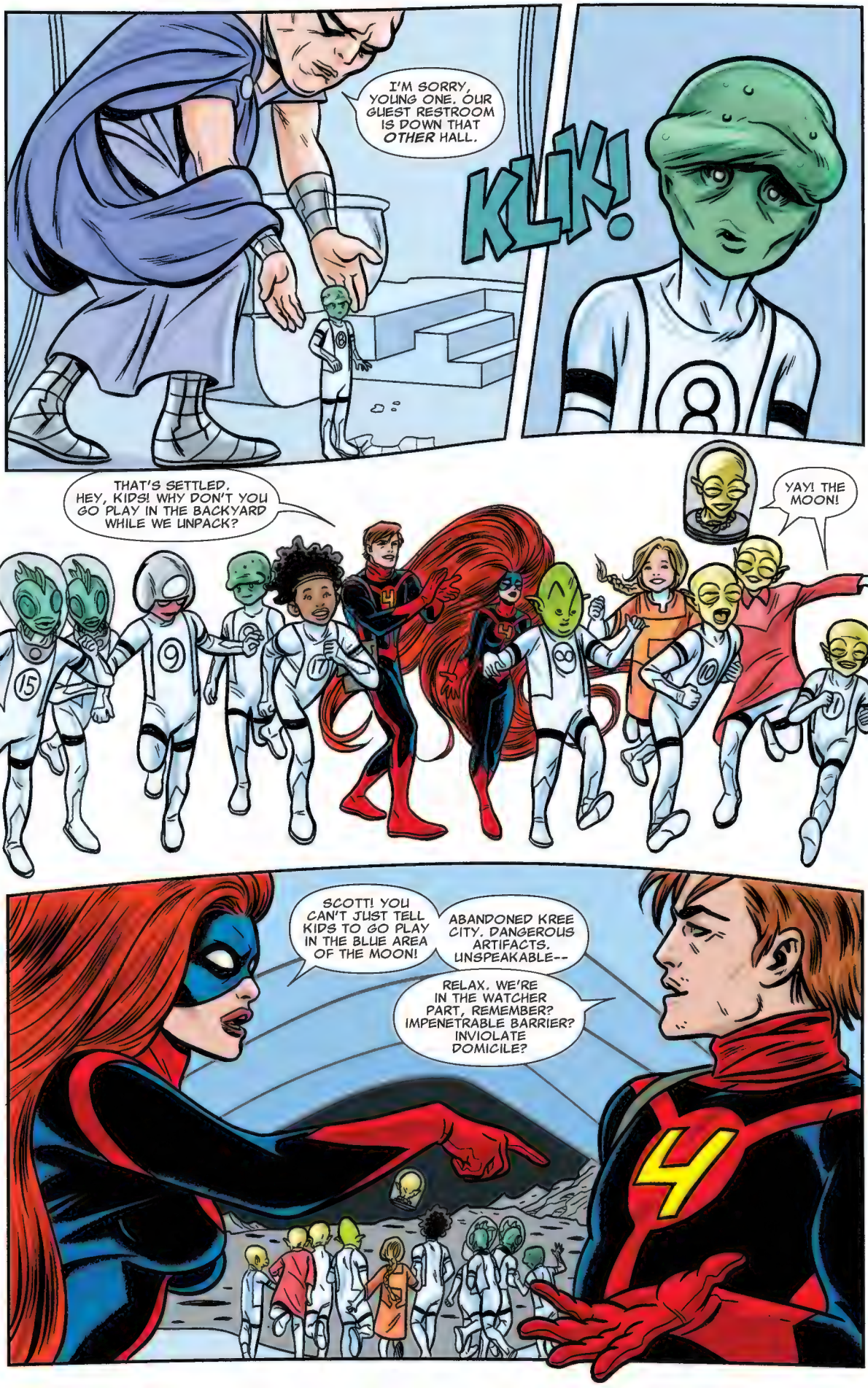
POP!
TAA-DAA! MEZZANINE FLOOR. BLUE AREA OF THE MOON. PROHIBITED AREA. WATCH YOUR STEP.
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S HOUSE. A TRIPPY LSD HOUSE, BUT A HOUSE.
IT IS A HOUSE.
EVERYONE, MEET UATU THE WATCHER. BIG ALL-KNOWING GUY WHO WATCHES EVENTS UNFOLD, BUT HAS A STRICT CODE OF NONINTERVENTION EVEN IF THINGS GO WRONG.
SO KIND OF LIKE A DOCTOR WHO DRIVES PAST A REALLY BAD CAR CRASH WITHOUT STOPPING TO HELP.
UATU! ÷SNORT÷ HE COULD HELP PEOPLE BUT DOESN'T AND HE'S NAMED "YOU OUGHT TO." ÷SNORT÷


WE'RE GOING TO BE BLINKING HERE FOR A FEW DAYS WHILE WE MAKE PLANS TO TAKE DOWN DOOM.
HERE--?! SCOTT, WE CAN'T STAY HERE! HE--HE'S THE WATCHER!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN KICK US OUT, NOW, CAN HE?
KIDS, I THINK I SAW A BATHROOM DOWN THAT HALL.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE WOEFULLY UNDER-INFORMED, SCOTT LANG.
I MOST ASSUREDLY MAY ACT TO EVICT TRESPASSERS FROM MY INVIOLATE DOMICILE.
WHOOPS! TIME TO LEAVE! BYE, SON! LOVE YA MUCH!
POP!
IN-VI-O-LATE?
REFLECTED VISIBLE LIGHT. WAVELENGTH 380 TO 450 NANOMETERS. ALSO A FLOWER.
SO HE'S A FLORIST?
LEAVE BEFORE I AM FORCED TO EVICT YOU IN A MANNER MOST PAINFUL.
NOT WHEN I HAVE-- THIS!
NOW BE A GOOD LITTLE WATCHER AND SIT IN THAT VERY LARGE CHAIR OVER THERE SO WE CAN TIE YOU UP.
THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER? SCOTT, ARE YOU MAD? PUT THAT AWAY! YOU COULD DESTROY THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!
AND ALL THE WATCHERS ALONG WITH IT. RIGHT, UATU?

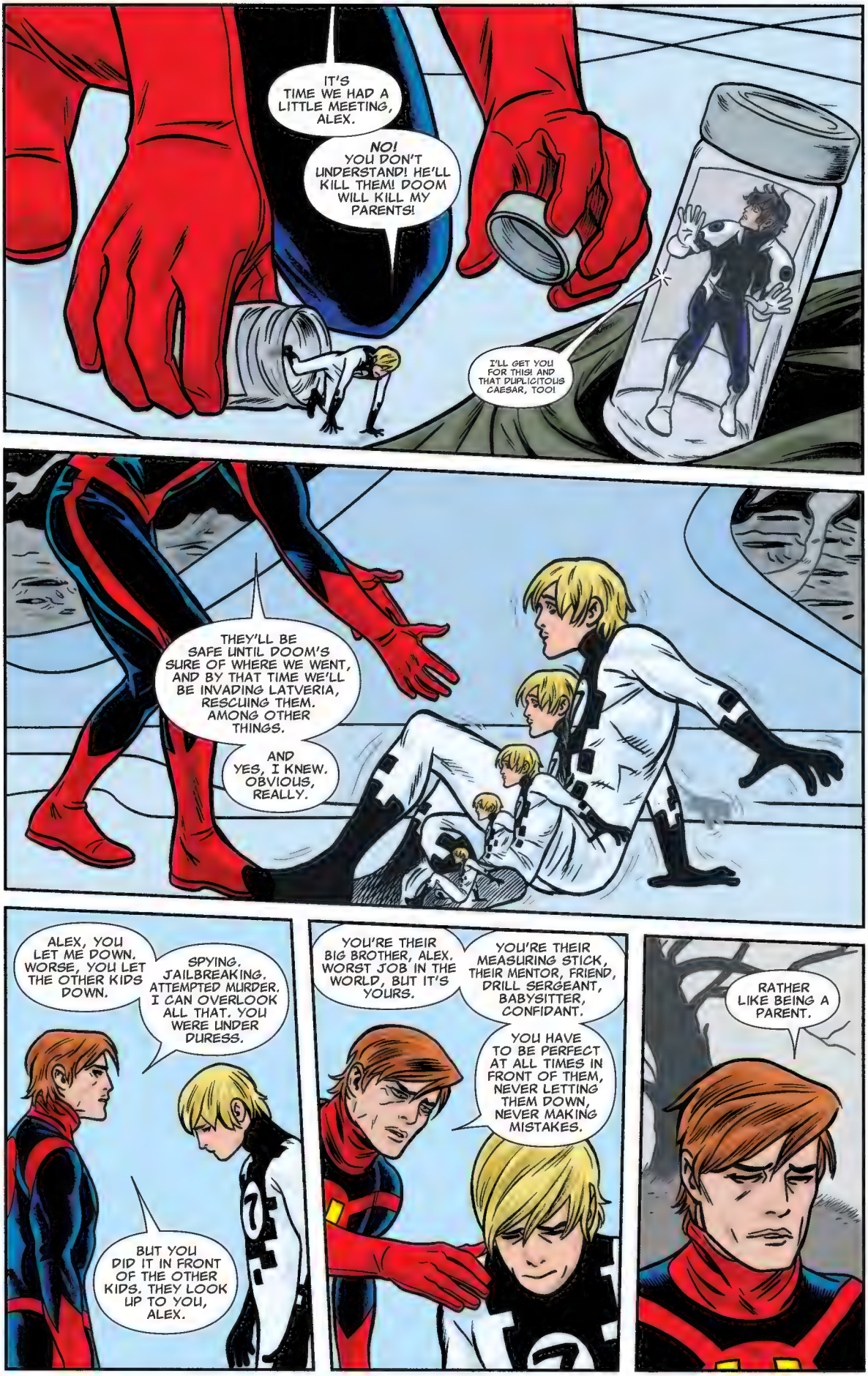
HMMM. I SEE.
I SHALL SIT IN THE CHAIR NOW.
THAT DEVICE, IT'S--
AN ULTIMATE NULLIFIER. NULLIFIER. ULTIMATE. ONE EACH.
IT LOOKS LIKE A--
NULLIFIER. WHOLE LOTTA NULLIFYING GOING ON. I'M IN YOUR BASE, DUPING YOUR RARES. ALL YOUR BASE BELONG TO NULLIFIER.
BUT--
NULLIFIER. NOTHING YOU CAN DO. GOT THE DROP ON YOU, BOSSES CAN'T COMPLAIN. NULLIFIER. YOU'RE NULLIFIED.
HERE, JEN. TIE HIM UP.
YOU WANT ME TO TIE UP THE WATCHER WITH A 99¢ CLOTHESLINE FROM ACME HARDWARE? SERIOUSLY?
YOU HEARD WHAT I SAID.
SCOTT, YOU ARE ONE WILD AND CRAZY ANT-DUDE.
EITHER THAT OR MAXIMUS HAS BEEN SWITCHING MINDS AND BODIES AGAIN.
PLEASE. MY HOMICIDAL BROTHER-IN-LAW IS MERELY MAD, NOT ANIMAL CRACKERS.

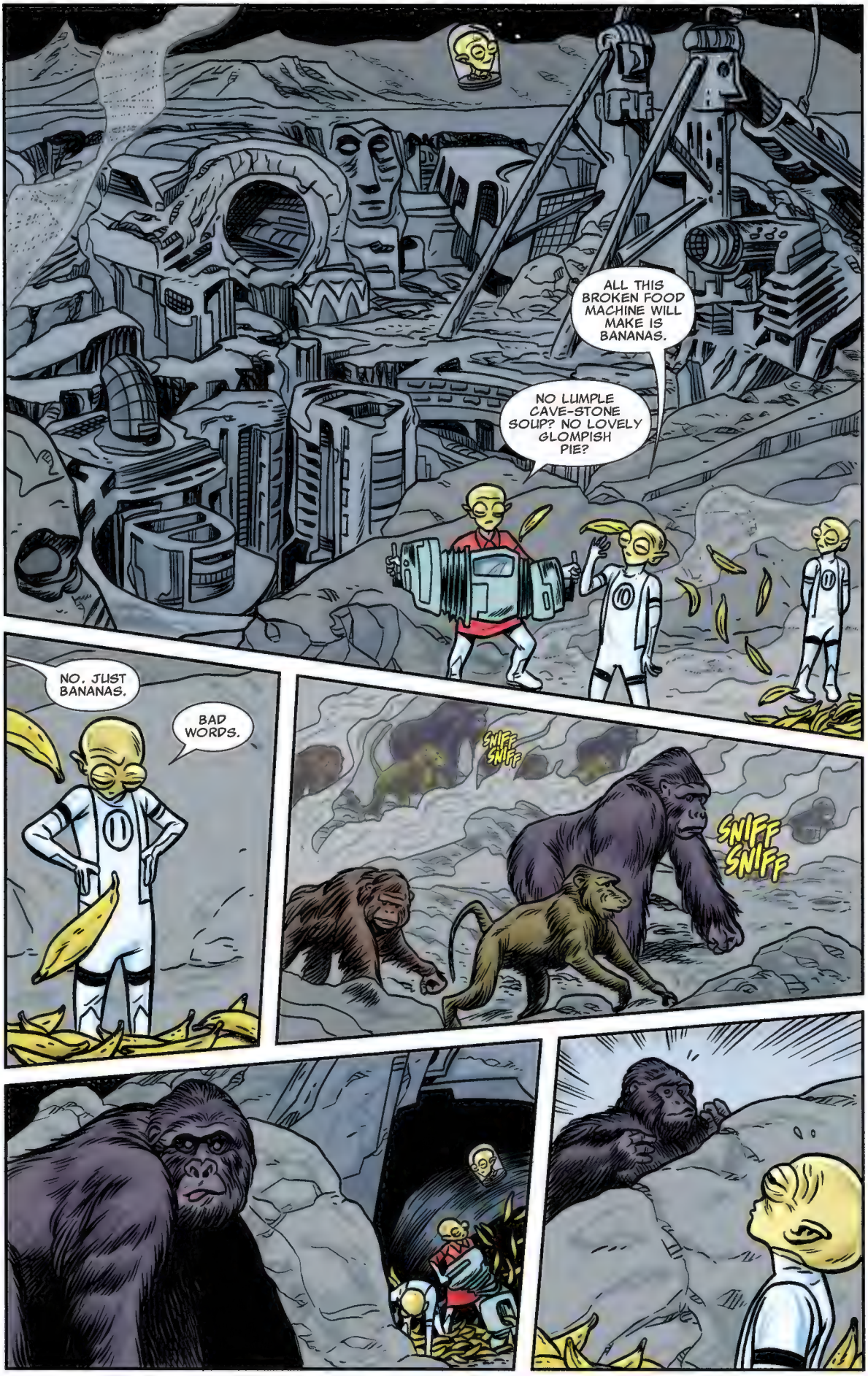

UATU, I--
WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?
THAT HUMAN HOLDS THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER AND THREATENS OUR DWELLING, NOT TO MENTION THE UNIVERSE.
BUT THAT IS A--
AN ULTIMATE NULLIFIER.
AH. I SEE. I SURRENDER AS WELL, THEN.
MORE CLOTHESLINE, JENNIFER.
SO WHO'S SHE? I MEAN, I CAN SEE SHE'S ANOTHER WATCHER, TOO, BUT...
THIS IS ULANA. TO PUT IT DELICATELY IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN, EVEN LITTLE WATCHERS MUST COME FROM SOMEWHERE. OCCASIONALLY, FROM TIME TO TIME, WE--
DATE.


EWWWW! MUSHY STUFF! GIRL COOTIES! GROSS!
AWWW.
UATU AND ULANA, SITTING IN A TREE—
DO NOT PITCH THE WOO TO OUR JEN!
I WOULD NOT DREAM OF IT.
♪AHEM!♫ HOWEVER.
THIS PARTICULAR CONFINEMENT IS MOST AWKWARD FOR ALL CONCERNED. IF I MAY SUGGEST AN HONORABLE ALTERNATIVE: AN OLD EARTH CUSTOM CALLED PAROLE.
THEY'RE EX-CONS, TOO?
PAROLE (n), A MILITARY TERMINOLOGY. A PRISONER OF WAR PLEDGES TO NOT ESCAPE IN EXCHANGE FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND LESSER RESTRAINT.
YOU HAVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION IN CLASS.
NO. I JUST READ A LOT OF C.S. FORESTER.
I DUNNO. LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.
PLEASE DECIDE QUICKLY. TO PUT IT DELICATELY IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN, EVEN WATCHERS MUST OCCASIONALLY VISIT THE...♪AHEM♫...
OH. RIGHT. JENNIFER, UNTIE THEM.


I'M SORRY, YOUNG ONE. OUR GUEST RESTROOM IS DOWN THAT *OTHER* HALL.
KLIK!
THAT'S SETTLED. HEY, KIDS! WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY IN THE BACKYARD WHILE WE UNPACK?
YAY! THE MOON!
SCOTT! YOU CAN'T JUST TELL KIDS TO GO PLAY IN THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON!
ABANDONED KREE CITY. DANGEROUS ARTIFACTS. UNSPEAKABLE--
RELAX. WE'RE IN THE WATCHER PART, REMEMBER? IMPENETRABLE BARRIER? INVIOLATE DOMICILE?

"AND BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'LL BE ATTACKED BY SPACE MONKEYS OR SOMETHING."
JUST AS I PREDICTED. THE RETURN OF THE REOCCURRING CHRONOSPIKE THAT WEAKENS THE IMPENETRABLE BARRIER.
THAT FANTASTIC DWELLING AND ITS TREASURES WILL FINALLY FALL TO THE RED GHOST!
CAREFULLY, NOW, MY SUPER-APES. WE'RE ENTERING THE MISTS OF ENDLESS TIME LOOPS THAT DRAIN ME OF MY INTANGIBILITY.
MY PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS HERE WERE THWARTED BY JEALOUS ERSTWHILE ALLIES-IN-CRIME.
BUT THIS TIME, NO PISCIOIDS OF ATTUMA WILL KEEP ME OUT OF THAT HOUSE!
BAH! WHY DID I ALLY WITH THAT IDIOT MOLE MAN?
ONCE I ROB THAT DWELLING, THE MOLE MAN'S UNDERGROUND MOLOID KINGDOM WILL BE THE FIRST TO FALL! AND THE AVENGERS, TOO!
THIS TIME, NO BALD GIANT WILL KEEP ME OUT OF THAT HOUSE!
BAH! WHY DID I ALLY WITH THAT IDIOT ATTUMA?
ONCE I ROB THAT DWELLING, ATTUMA'S UNDERSEA KINGDOM WILL BE THE FIRST TO FALL! AND THE DEFENDERS, TOO!
THIS TIME, NO MOLOIDS WILL KEEP ME OUT OF THAT HOUSE!
BAH! WHY DID I ALLY WITH THAT IDIOT IMPOSSIBLE MAN?
ONCE I ROB THAT DWELLING, THE PLANET POPPUP WILL BE THE FIRST TO FALL! AND THE CHAMPIONS, TOO!
THIS TIME, NO BENTLEY WITTMAN WILL KEEP ME OUT OF THAT HOUSE!


IT'S TIME WE HAD A LITTLE MEETING, ALEX.
NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE'LL KILL THEM! DOOM WILL KILL MY PARENTS!
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS! AND THAT DUPLICITOUS CAESAR, TOO!
THEY'LL BE SAFE UNTIL DOOM'S SURE OF WHERE WE WENT, AND BY THAT TIME WE'LL BE INVADING LATVERIA, RESCUING THEM. AMONG OTHER THINGS.
AND YES, I KNEW. OBVIOUS, REALLY.
ALEX, YOU LET ME DOWN. WORSE, YOU LET THE OTHER KIDS DOWN.
SPYING. JAILBREAKING. ATTEMPTED MURDER. I CAN OVERLOOK ALL THAT. YOU WERE UNDER DURESS.
BUT YOU DID IT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER KIDS. THEY LOOK UP TO YOU, ALEX.
YOU'RE THEIR BIG BROTHER, ALEX. WORST JOB IN THE WORLD, BUT IT'S YOURS.
YOU'RE THEIR MEASURING STICK, THEIR MENTOR, FRIEND, DRILL SERGEANT, BABYSITTER, CONFIDANT.
YOU HAVE TO BE PERFECT AT ALL TIMES IN FRONT OF THEM, NEVER LETTING THEM DOWN, NEVER MAKING MISTAKES.
RATHER LIKE BEING A PARENT.

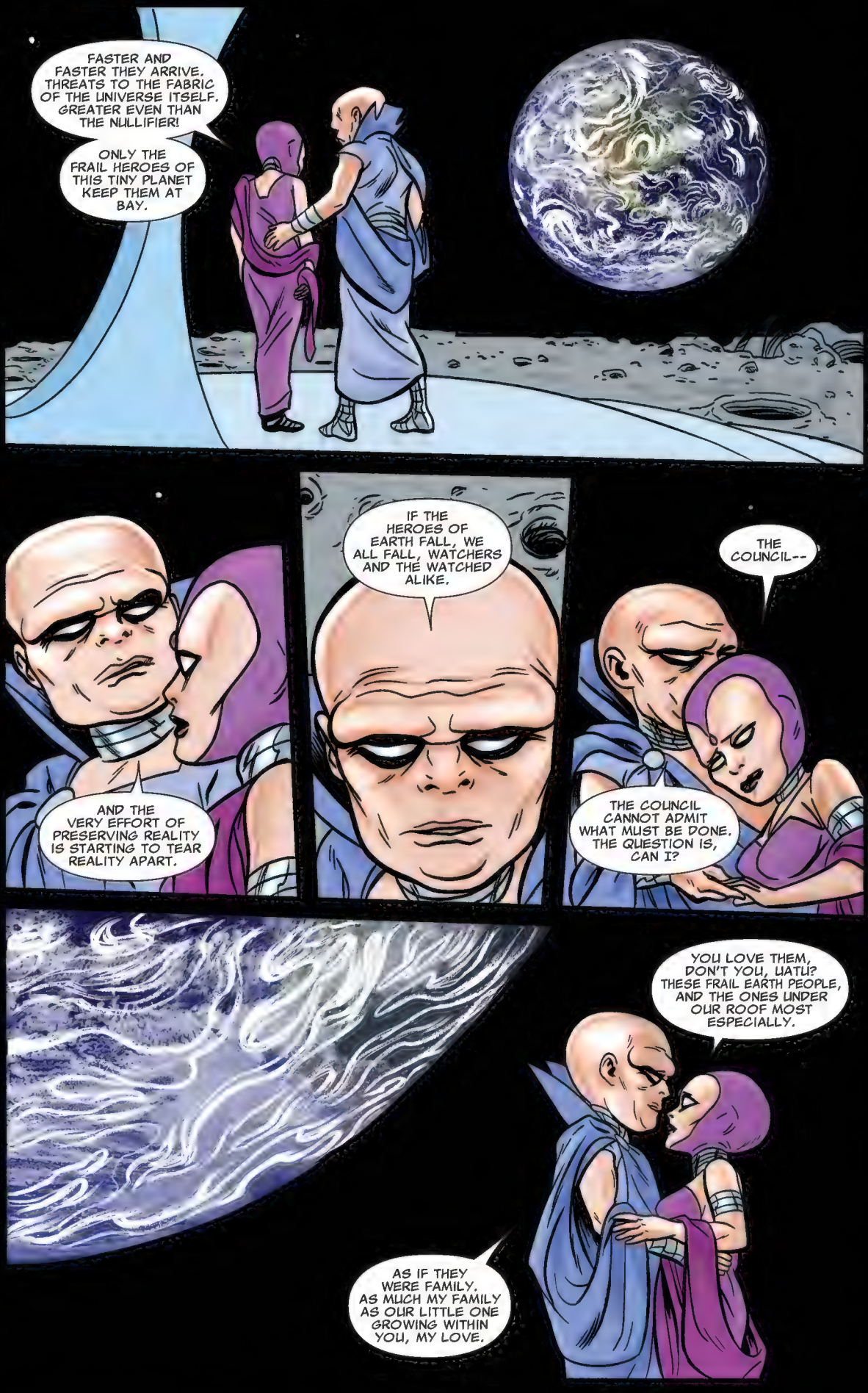

ALL THIS BROKEN FOOD MACHINE WILL MAKE IS BANANAS.
NO LUMPLE CAVE-STONE SOUP? NO LOVELY GLOMPISH PIE?
NO. JUST BANANAS.
BAD WORDS.
SNIFF SNIFF
SNIFF SNIFF

OOK OOK OOK!
OOK OOK OOK!
EEK EEK EEK!
EEK EEK EEK!
OOK OOK EEK EEK!
OOK OOK EEK EEK!
?
?
?
?
?
?
?
BA-NA-NA.
BA-NA-NA?

FOUND MY WAY THROUGH THAT INTERMINABLE FOG AT LAST! AND--
NOW WHAT MISCHIEF HAVE THOSE IDIOT APES GOTTEN INTO?
OOK! OOK! EEK! EEK!
OOK! OOK! EEK! EEK!
OOK! OOK! EEK! EEK!
OOK! OOK! EEK! EEK!
INTRIGUING! THIS GENERATED ATMOSPHERE IS NOT HOMOGENEOUS, BUT IS ACTUALLY A SERIES OF LOCALIZED INSTANCES TAILORED TO ONE'S RESPIRATORY REQUIREMENTS.
WE BREATHE WATER, SO FOR US THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND US IS WATER.
NO! NOT ATTUMA'S PISCOID WARRIORS! NOT HERE! NOT NOW!
NOT AGAIN!
RETREAT!
?
NOW WHAT MISCHIEF HAVE THOSE IDIOT APES GOTTEN INTO?
I'LL OOK OOK EEK THEM!

NO! NOT THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN! NOT HERE! NOT NOW!
NOT AGAIN!
RETREAT!
?
KLANK KLANK KLANK
NOW WHAT MISCHIEF HAVE THOSE IDIOT APES GOTTEN INTO?
AGGH! YOU GOT ME, PARDNER! TELL MAW I DIED WITH MY SPURS ON.
DON'T BURY ME NOOWWW ON THE LONE PRAIRIEEEEE.
NO! NOT BENTLEY WITTMAN! NOT HERE! NOT NOW!
AND WHO TURNED HIM INTO A KID?
THIS STRANGE MOON CREATURE! IT'S DRAINING MY POWERS!
QUICK, BEFORE IT DE-AGES ME! RETREAT!
NOW WHAT MISCHIEF HAVE THOSE HUNGRY APES GOTTEN INTO?
IF THEY'VE SOMEHOW FOUND FOOD, THEY'LL REVOLT AGAIN.
OOK?

SMACK!
OOK! OOK!
RIGHT TURN, CLYDE!
ARRGH!
THUD!
OOOOOF!
POW!
POUND!
OUCH!
STOMP!
EEK! EEK!
GAAHH!


FASTER AND FASTER THEY ARRIVE. THREATS TO THE FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF. GREATER EVEN THAN THE NULLIFIER!
ONLY THE FRAIL HEROES OF THIS TINY PLANET KEEP THEM AT BAY.
AND THE VERY EFFORT OF PRESERVING REALITY IS STARTING TO TEAR REALITY APART.
IF THE HEROES OF EARTH FALL, WE ALL FALL, WATCHERS AND THE WATCHED ALIKE.
THE COUNCIL--
THE COUNCIL CANNOT ADMIT WHAT MUST BE DONE. THE QUESTION IS, CAN I?
YOU LOVE THEM, DON'T YOU, LIATU? THESE FRAIL EARTH PEOPLE, AND THE ONES UNDER OUR ROOF MOST ESPECIALLY.
AS IF THEY WERE FAMILY. AS MUCH MY FAMILY AS OUR LITTLE ONE GROWING WITHIN YOU, MY LOVE.

YOU'RE THEIR MEASURING STICK--
YOU HAVE TO BE PERFECT AT ALL TIMES IN FRONT OF THEM, NEVER LETTING THEM DOWN, NEVER MAKING MISTAKES.
I'VE BEEN LETTING THEM DOWN, TOO, HAVEN'T I, CASSIE?
I'VE BEEN LETTING MY HATE AND ANGER FOR DOOM BLIND ME TO WHAT I NEED TO DO.
AND IN FRONT OF THEM, TOO.
DOOM MUST BE STOPPED, BUT--
I'M SORRY, CASSIE. I KNOW WHAT I PROMISED YOU. I CAN'T DO IT THAT WAY.
I HAVE THE REST OF OUR FAMILY TO THINK ABOUT.
I CANNOT TEACH THESE CHILDREN TO KILL.
ATTENTION, EVERYONE. PLEASE GATHER IN THE CENTRAL CHAMBER.
IT'S TIME WE START TAKING DOOM DOWN. ONCE AND FOR ALL AND FOR ALL TIME.

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

Well, it's a month of unexpected departures and unexpected arrivals here in FF-land. As some of you may have heard, the demands of his upcoming work on INHUMANITY have required writer Matt Fraction to reluctantly hand over FANTASTIC FOUR and FF to other people. Stepping in to pick up the baton are Karl Kesel on FANTASTIC FOUR and Lee Allred on FF. Matt's provided copious notes about where the storylines were going, though, so his presence will continue to be felt for the next few months at least. And while Karl and Lee have been given access to Matt's plans, they've also been encouraged to do their own thing, and to make the issues they're working on their own. Hopefully, we'll be able to keep this crazy train rolling along the tracks until we reach our climax! And either way, you can let us know your feelings right here!

But now, here's a last message from Matt:

Hello F4/FF readers -- Matt here for what is, at least, for now, goodbye. It was a singular joy to carry the baton for the extended -- very extended! -- Richards family for even this short time. I would not be a comics fan, let alone a writer, were it not in part for the adventures of the Fantastic Four and I could eat up the rest of this page telling you how much being a part of the team even this long has meant to me. While that's the bad news, the good news is that I, like the rest of you, get to start reading the books again as a fan -- as a fiend! -- with fresh eyes. While Karl and Lee know what I was up to, they have, right away, made these books their own and I get two of my favorite comics back every month. So thank you, once again, for your unbelievable support and love for all things F4/FF this last year. You'll never know what it meant to me. Stay fantastic, and I'll see you at the comic shop.

-Matt Fraction

Dear Messrs. Fraction, Bagley, Farmer, Mounts, Cowles, and Brevoort,

Congratulations on FANTASTIC FOUR #10. So far, I've been enjoying the heck out of FF like most of the internet, but FANTASTIC FOUR itself has seemed a little anemic - pleasant and enjoyable, but not as snappy or innovative as the stuff going on in its sister title. With issue #10, though, you guys finally created an issue that nailed the prototypical Fantastic Four formula. It had character soap opera and was part of a larger arc, but told a satisfying plot in one issue. It had a moral, it made me think some about some serious themes, and it made me laugh out loud twice (three times if you count the banner). Well done - and do it again, please!

Peter Hohman
Erie, PA

Thanks, Peter—and we'll do our best!

Dear FF Team!

What a fantastic start of a run! FF #7 is definitely one of the best Marvel issues of this year. The fun but meaningful dialogue highlights the hearts and personalities of each of the members of this family that we have come to love so much. I love everything that you're doing, so carry on!

Tiffany Babb
Los Angeles, CA

Dear FF team,

You guys are doing a spectacular job on both FANTASTIC FOUR and FF--though I have to admit, FF is winning out a bit for me. I just put down the "pool party issue," and I adored it. However, something in this issue brought up a question in my mind: I noticed that Ahura had a birthmark or tattoo on his chest, the design of which resembled the stripes on the shirt of both Black Bolt and Ahura himself. I'm curious; is the design of the jacket/shirt based upon the birthmark, or is the "birthmark" a tattoo based upon the jacket's design? In other words, is Black Bolt black with white stripes or white with black stripes?

Ryan Carroll

Some things man was not meant to know, Ryan! But my guess would be that Ahura's chest-markings were based on the shirt design, and not the other way around.

Hey FF Guys

Whilst enjoying the time-twisting, revolutionary-revelry of FANTASTIC FOUR #10, I spotted what at first glance appeared to be a mistake.

Speaking in 1776, John Adams refers to the 13 colonies of pre-revolutionary America as "separate and unique... ecosystems." Now, as anyone familiar with botanical history will tell you the concept of ecosystems was introduced by sir Arthur Tansley in the 1930s - 150 years after the Declaration of Independence was drafted.

Initially I was planning on writing to you in order to claim a No-Prize. However, after reading the issue for a second time it is now obvious to me that those devious, time travelling Skrulls - familiar with 20th Century biological discourse - had somehow slipped the notion of ecosystems into the lexicon of the Unites States' founding fathers!

Congrats to Mr. Fraction et al for cleverly adding another layer of meaning to an already fascinating read.

You're a credit to the colonies!

Justin Hobday
Bedford, ENGLAND.

And that's not all those devious Skrulls were up to, Justin.

Hello FF Team!

"It's 1776, and we're off the coast of Pennsylvania"

Pennsylvania does not have a coast. Lake Erie does not count, especially within the context of the story. So much for Mr. Fantastic's 'smartest man' title.

My explanation: A Skrull trick? Send my No-Prize to West Philly.

Ashley
Philadelphia

We blame it on the ecosystems, Ashley.

Dear "Tom B"

I just finished the Fan page for this month. Why do you even bother posting correspondence that you don't even reply to? It's especially annoying when questions are asked. I also was particularly agitated that you ignored Jim Murphy's letter since I agreed with it so much.

I realize that most of them are generally addressed to Matt, but when you post letters that ask pointed questions, and then ignore them, it's insulting to the writer and to other readers. Even a "We showed your letter to Matt; if he has a reply, we'll post it here"

If you're not willing or able to do your job, you should ask someone else to do it.

Michael Incata

Sorry you feel that way, Michael, but I don't think that having your letter printed here is a sign of disrespect. When there are questions that require an answer, I give it—but this space is really devoted to letting you readers let us and each other know what's on your minds. Some letters—like Tiffany Babb's at the start of this page—don't really require a response. And seriously, do you really want me to fill this page with more of my blather?

Tom B
9/17/13

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can e-mail it to us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!

MARVEL

MATT FRACTION
LEE ALLRED
MICHAEL ALLRED
LAURA ALLRED

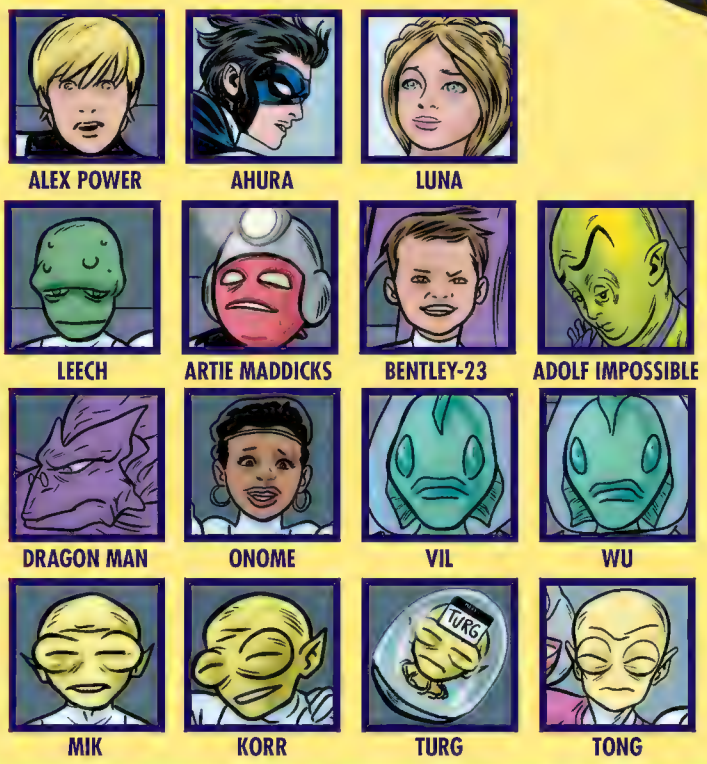
014

THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

While away on their cosmic family vacation, the Fantastic Four left the young and brilliant children of the Future Foundation in the care of Ant-Man, Darla Deering, Medusa and She-Hulk. Soon after the Fantastic Four left, a scarred, traumatized older John Storm returned, claiming the team had all died at the hand of Doom, the Annihilating Conqueror!

Cosmic alien Julius Caesar worked with Maximus the Mad to build a Multilinear Chronostellar Manifold to retrieve the Fantastic Four. Doom kidnapped foundation student Alex Power's parents and ordered him to steal the plans for the machine and kill Old John Storm.

Ant-Man discovered Doom's plan and used the Manifold to go to the one place Doom and his cadre of villainous cohorts (Kid Immortus, Annihilus and Ravona) could not find them: The Blue Area of the Moon, home to Uatu the Watcher!



MATT FRACTION & LEE ALLRED
story

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JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
executive producer

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
the Brandos of comics

BATH HOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON

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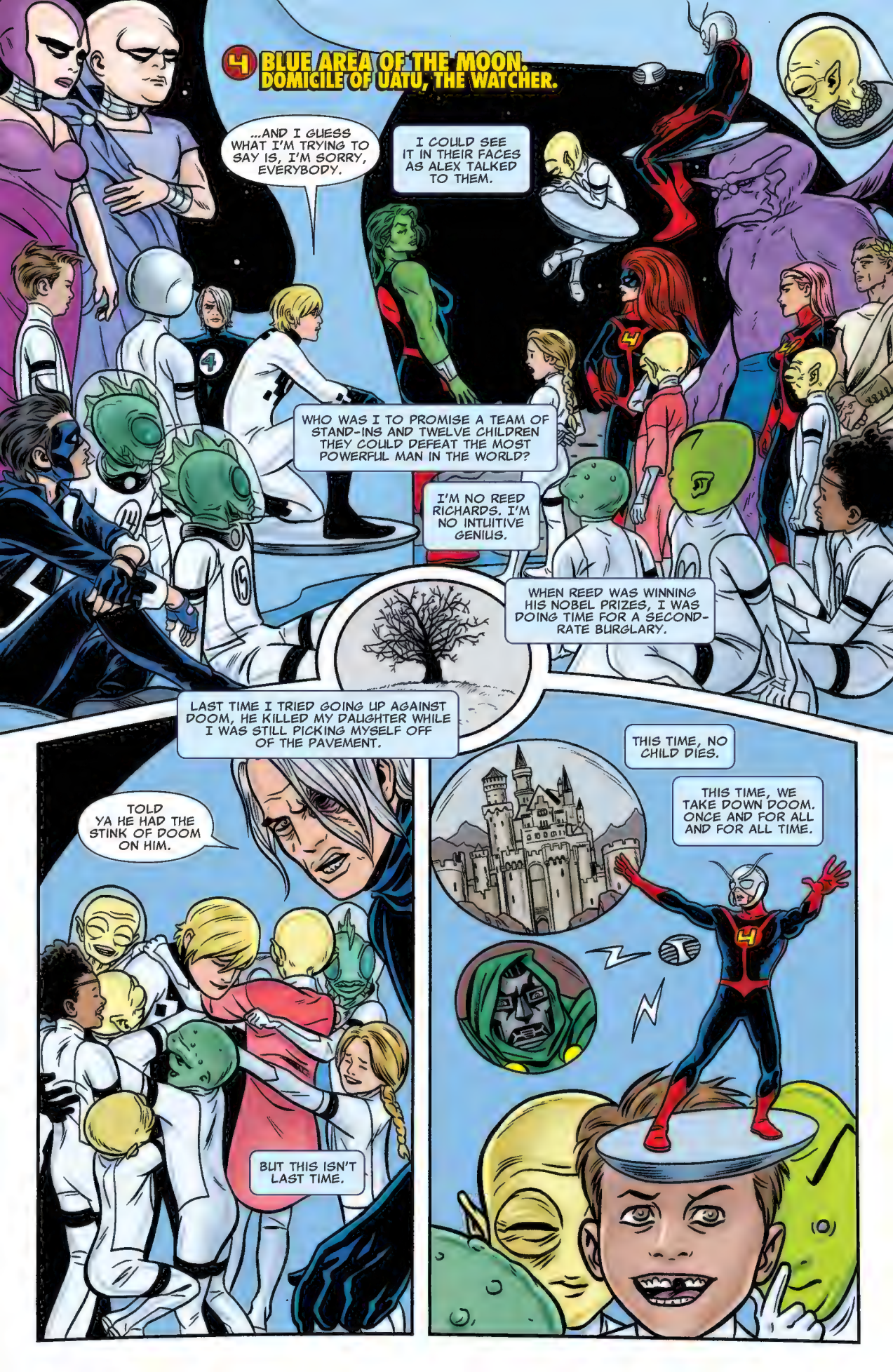
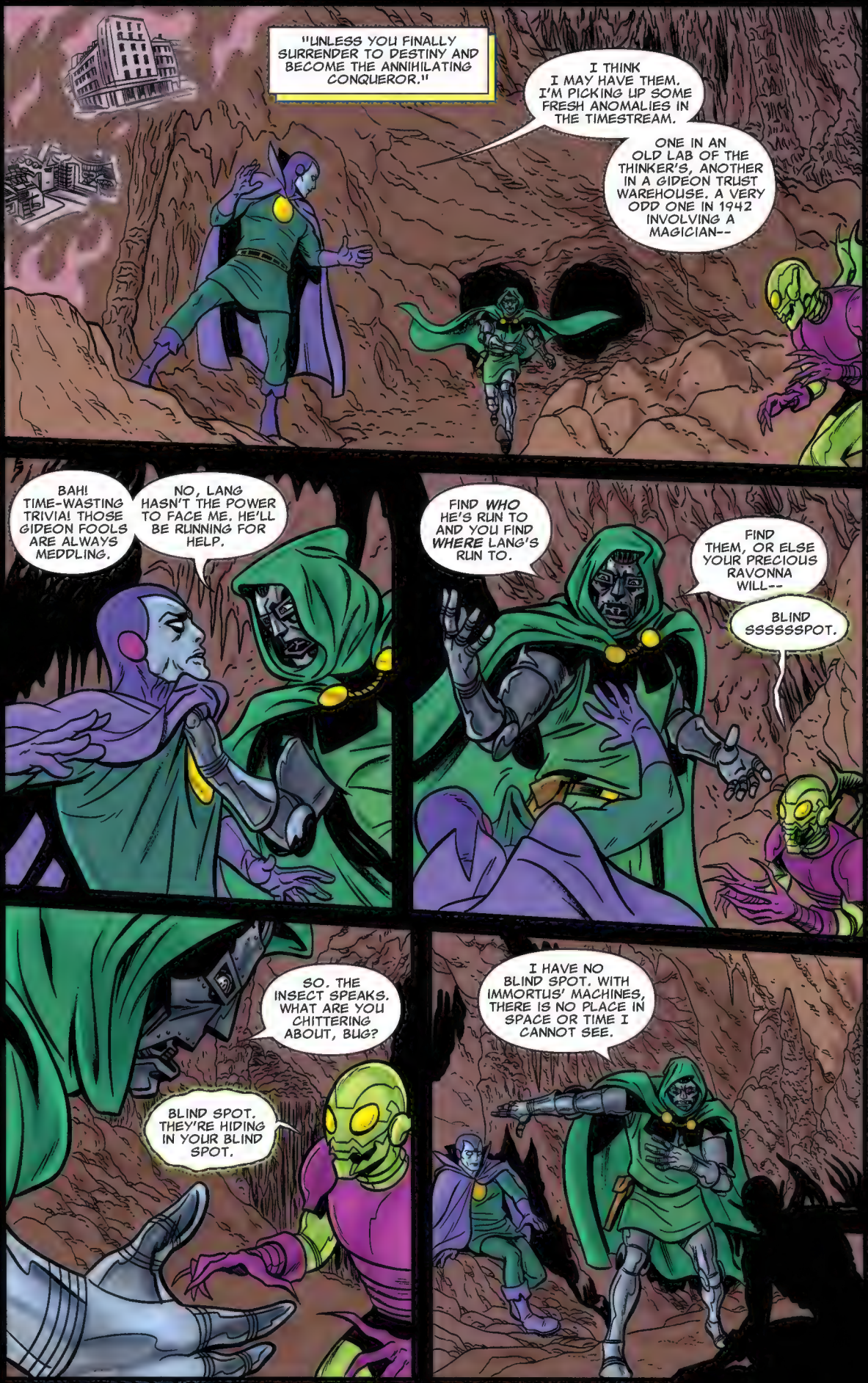
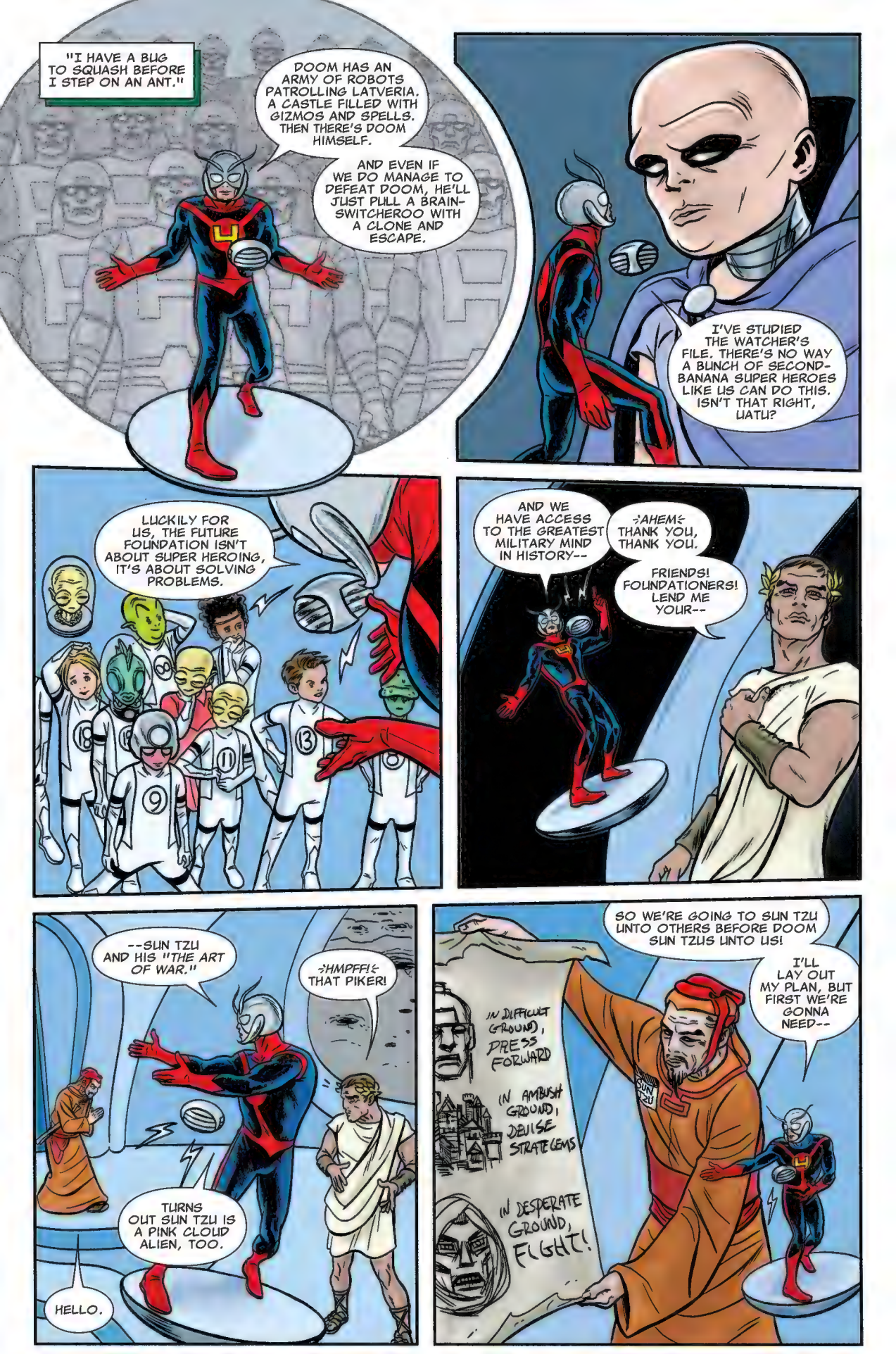

4 BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.
DOMICILE OF UATU, THE WATCHER.
...AND I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, I'M SORRY, EVERYBODY.
I COULD SEE IT IN THEIR FACES AS ALEX TALKED TO THEM.
WHO WAS I TO PROMISE A TEAM OF STAND-INS AND TWELVE CHILDREN THEY COULD DEFEAT THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD?
I'M NO REED RICHARDS. I'M NO INTUITIVE GENIUS.
WHEN REED WAS WINNING HIS NOBEL PRIZES, I WAS DOING TIME FOR A SECOND-RATE BURGLARY.
LAST TIME I TRIED GOING UP AGAINST DOOM, HE KILLED MY DAUGHTER WHILE I WAS STILL PICKING MYSELF OFF OF THE PAVEMENT.
TOLD YA HE HAD THE STINK OF DOOM ON HIM.
BUT THIS ISN'T LAST TIME.
THIS TIME, NO CHILD DIES.
THIS TIME, WE TAKE DOWN DOOM. ONCE AND FOR ALL AND FOR ALL TIME.

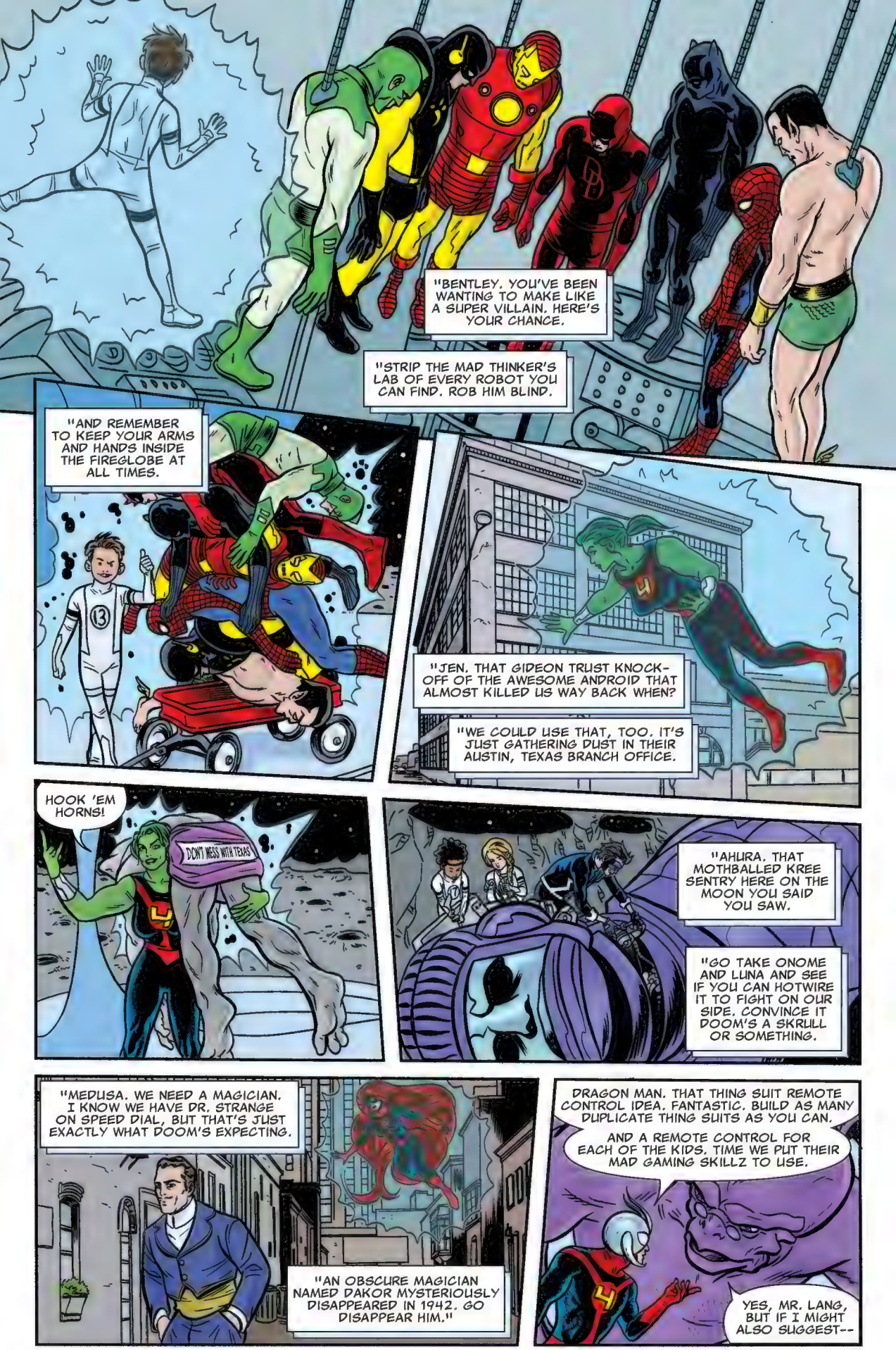
4 DOCTOR DOOM'S CASTLE IN LATVERIA.
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANY PORTAL.
YOU WERE HERE WHEN HE SAW US! ALEX DIDN'T TELL US ANYTHING!
BAH! IF THERE HAD BEEN A SECRET PLAN, HE WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.
YOUR SON MUST BE DEAD THEN, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE FF. YOU ARE THEREFORE OF NO FURTHER USE.
YOU REALLY ARE CLUELESS, AREN'T YOU, DOOM?
YOU HAVE NO GRASP OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR. NONE WHATSOEVER.
YOU DARE--?
YES, I DARE. YOU'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG FAMILY TREE.
THAT PORTAL SWALLOWED UP NOT ONLY BLACK BOLT'S WIFE, BUT HIS SON--A SON CAPABLE OF CONSTANT TELEPATHIC RAPPORT WITH HIS FATHER.
TELL ME, DOOM: DOES BLACK BOLT LOOK AT ALL WORRIED TO YOU?
LANG AND HIS BRATS ARE ALIVE!
ALIVE AND COMING FOR YOU, DOOM.
YOU KILLED SCOTT LANG'S DAUGHTER. NOW HE'S GOING TO KILL YOU.
AND HE'LL DO IT, TOO, UNLESS YOU DO EXACTLY WHAT MY NATE TELLS YOU.

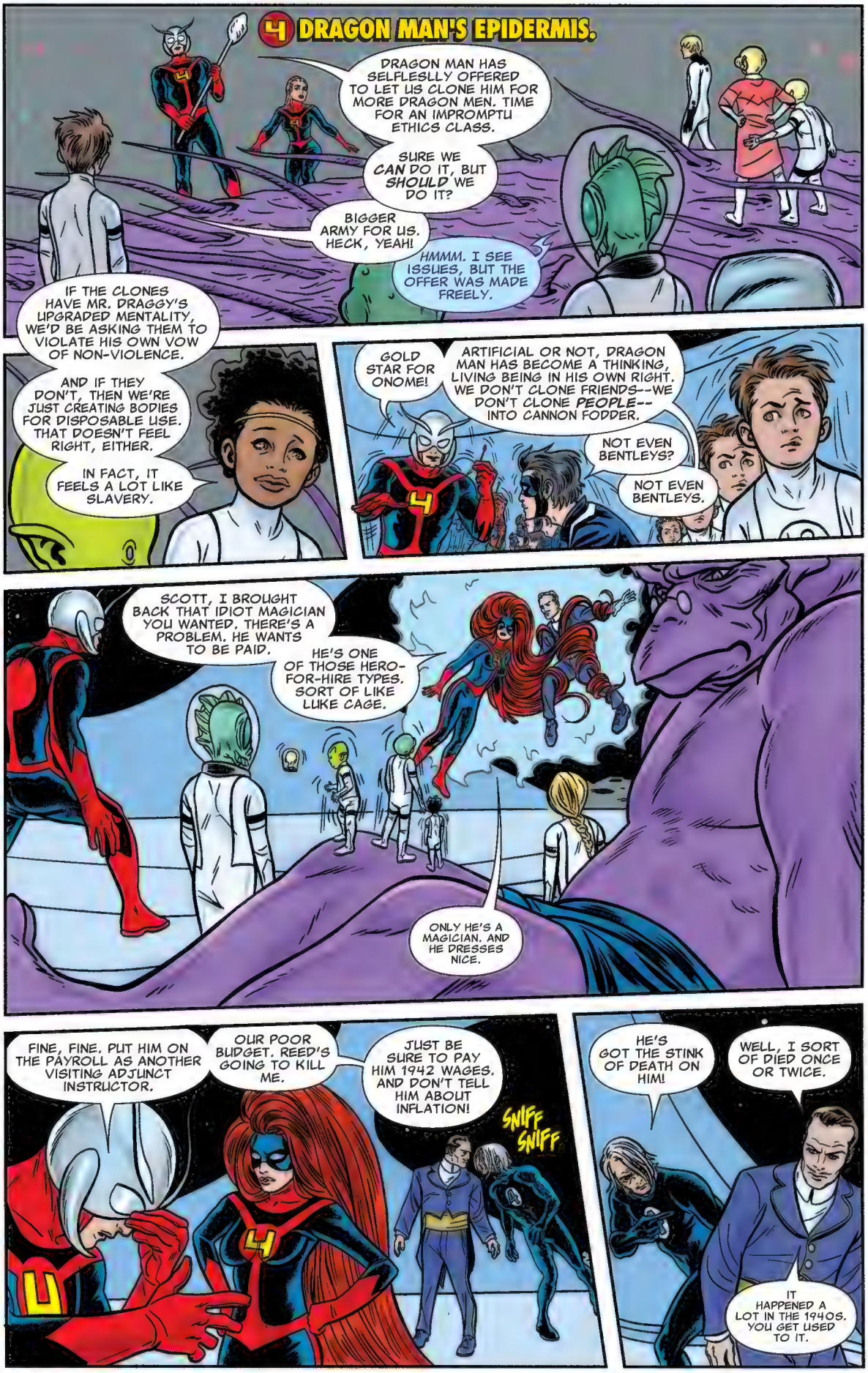

"UNLESS YOU FINALLY SURRENDER TO DESTINY AND BECOME THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR."
I THINK I MAY HAVE THEM. I'M PICKING UP SOME FRESH ANOMALIES IN THE TIMESTREAM.
ONE IN AN OLD LAB OF THE THINKER'S, ANOTHER IN A GIDEON TRUST WAREHOUSE. A VERY ODD ONE IN 1942 INVOLVING A MAGICIAN--
BAH! TIME-WASTING TRIVIA! THOSE GIDEON FOOLS ARE ALWAYS MEDDLING.
NO, LANG HASN'T THE POWER TO FACE ME. HE'LL BE RUNNING FOR HELP.
FIND WHO HE'S RUN TO AND YOU FIND WHERE LANG'S RUN TO.
FIND THEM, OR ELSE YOUR PRECIOUS RAVONNA WILL--
BLIND SSSSSSPOT.
SO. THE INSECT SPEAKS. WHAT ARE YOU CHITTERING ABOUT, BUG?
BLIND SPOT. THEY'RE HIDING IN YOUR BLIND SPOT.
I HAVE NO BLIND SPOT. WITH IMMORTUS' MACHINES, THERE IS NO PLACE IN SPACE OR TIME I CANNOT SEE.

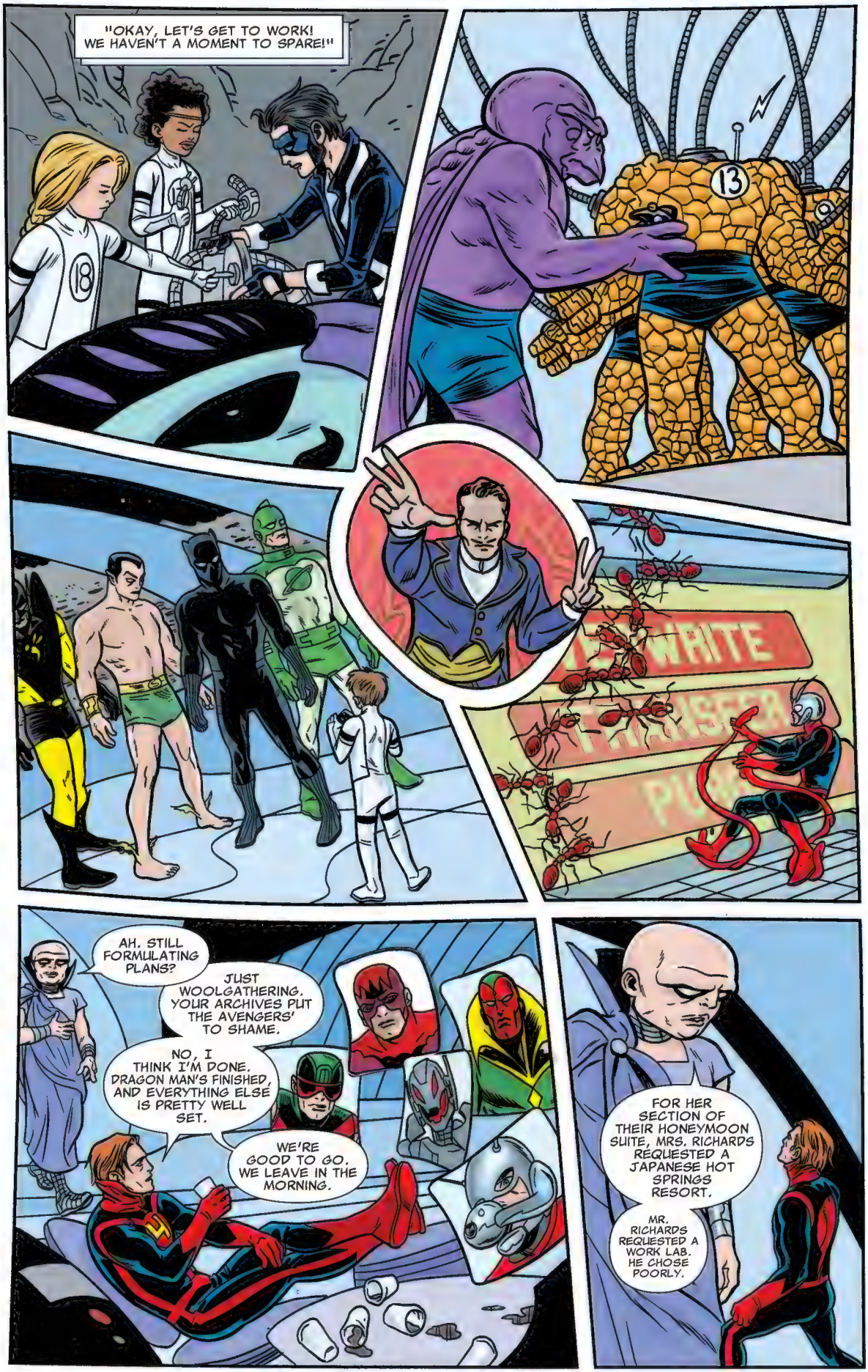
SSSSSO YOU SAY. MY SOLE INTEREST IS THE RETURN OF MY PROPERTY. WHAT CARE I OF THIS LANG?
TELL ME AGAIN. WITHOUT HIS PRECIOUS CONTROL ROD, WHAT DOES THAT INSECT BRING TO THE TABLE?
BY HIMSELF, NOTHING, BUT WE NEED HIS NEGATIVE ENERGIES AS A BINDING AGENT, A BUFFERING INGREDIENT IF YOU WILL.
WITHOUT IT, THE POWER OF ALL SPACE-TIME CANNOT BE ENCASED WITHIN A SINGLE FUSED BODY.
BAH! MORE OF YOUR "DOOM THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR" NONSENSE!
RISE OR FALL, DOOM STANDS ALONE. HE DOES NOT "MERGE." ESPECIALLY WITH INFERIORS.
DESTINY--
DESTINY IS BROKEN. YOU SAID SO YOURSELF.
BUT PERHAPS IT IS TIME DOOM ENSURES IT REMAINS BROKEN.
PREPARE THE APPARATUS AND FETCH THE DECOY.


"I HAVE A BUG TO SQUASH BEFORE I STEP ON AN ANT."
DOOM HAS AN ARMY OF ROBOTS PATROLLING LATVERIA. A CASTLE FILLED WITH GIZMOS AND SPELLS. THEN THERE'S DOOM HIMSELF.
AND EVEN IF WE DO MANAGE TO DEFEAT DOOM, HE'LL JUST PULL A BRAIN-SWITCHEROO WITH A CLONE AND ESCAPE.
I'VE STUDIED THE WATCHER'S FILE. THERE'S NO WAY A BUNCH OF SECOND-BANANA SUPER HEROES LIKE US CAN DO THIS. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, UATU?
LUCKILY FOR US, THE FUTURE FOUNDATION ISN'T ABOUT SUPER HEROING, IT'S ABOUT SOLVING PROBLEMS.
AND WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE GREATEST MILITARY MIND IN HISTORY--
-AHEM- THANK YOU, THANK YOU.
FRIENDS! FOUNDATIONERS! LEND ME YOUR--
--SUN TZU AND HIS "THE ART OF WAR."
-HMPFF!- THAT PIKER!
TURNS OUT SUN TZU IS A PINK CLOUD ALIEN, TOO.
HELLO.
SO WE'RE GOING TO SUN TZU UNTO OTHERS BEFORE DOOM SUN TZUS UNTO US!
I'LL LAY OUT MY PLAN, BUT FIRST WE'RE GONNA NEED--
IN DIFFICULT GROUND, PRESS FORWARD
IN AMBUSH GROUND, DEVISE STRATEGEMS
IN DESPERATE GROUND, FIGHT!
SUN TZU

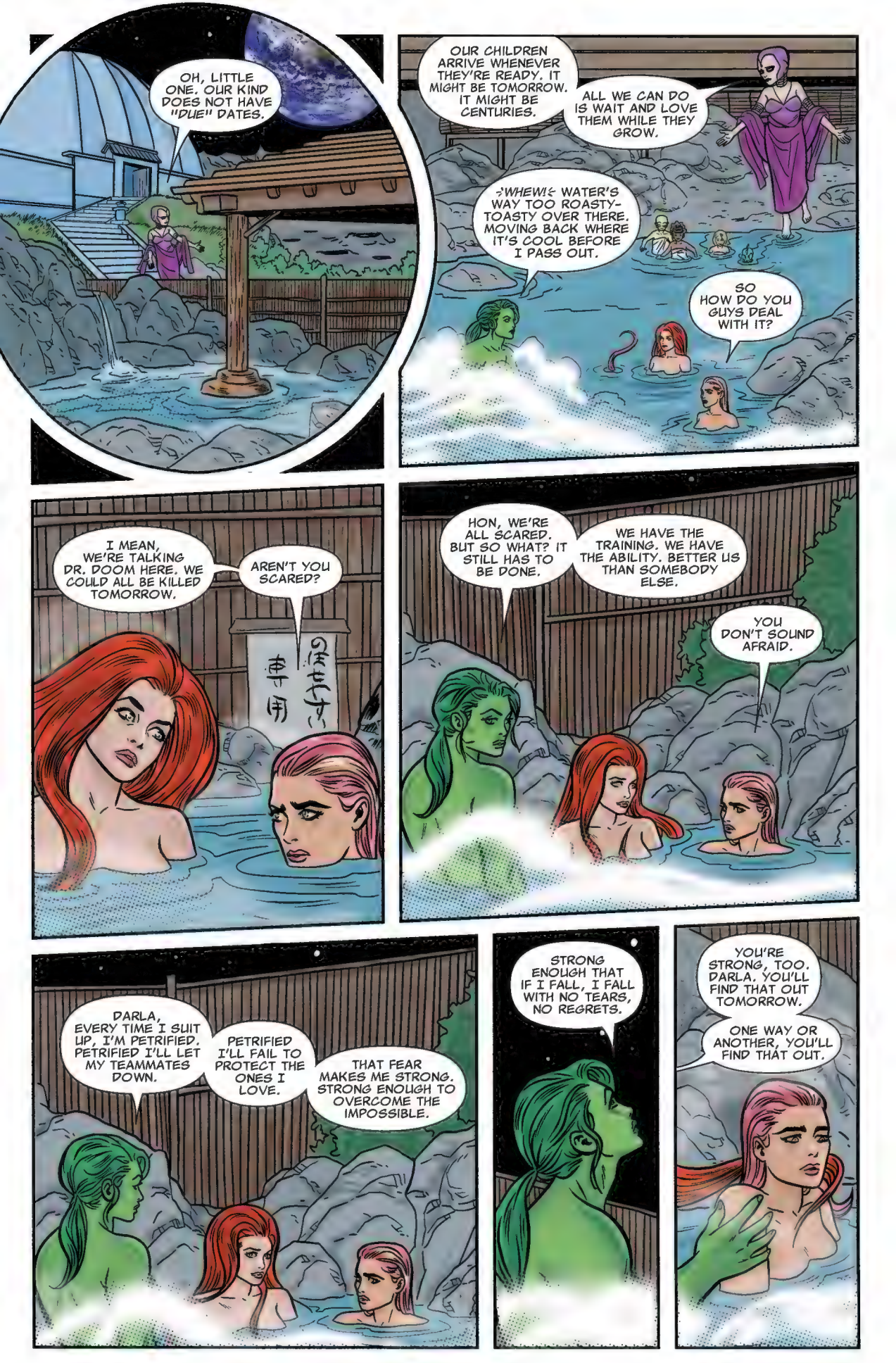
A TIGER! OUR TIGER CAN HELP!
YOU STILL HAVE THAT THING?!
HE'S NAMED CARGO--
CARGO MANSHARK? COOL NAME!
ANYWAY, BACK TO WHAT I WAS SAYING: WE'RE GOING TO--
CARGO MANSHARK. SHEESH, WHAT A NAME.
ANYWAY, WE'RE GOING TO NEED ROBOTS. A LOT OF ROBOTS. AND I--
I GOT IT! THEY NEED ANNIHILUS TO FORM THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR. WHY NOT JUST GRRRRRCHT?
NO ANNIHILUS, NO D-T-A-C!
COOL! BUG GUTS AND STUFF!
WE'RE NOT GRRRRRCHT-ING ANYBODY. NOT EVEN DOOM.
AWW.
BESIDES, ANNIHILUS ISN'T SO MUCH A WHO AS A WHAT. HE'S A CASTE INSECT LIKE A QUEEN BEE OR TERMITE OR ANT.
KILL ONE ANNIHILUS AND HIS HIVE WILL JUST HATCH ANOTHER QUEEN BEE.
IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW, IT'S INSECTS. SO TRUST ME. WE HANDLE THINGS MY WAY.
AND MY WAY REQUIRES ROBOTS. LOTS OF ROBOTS.
FORTUNATELY, I KNOW JUST WHERE AND WHEN TO GET THEM.

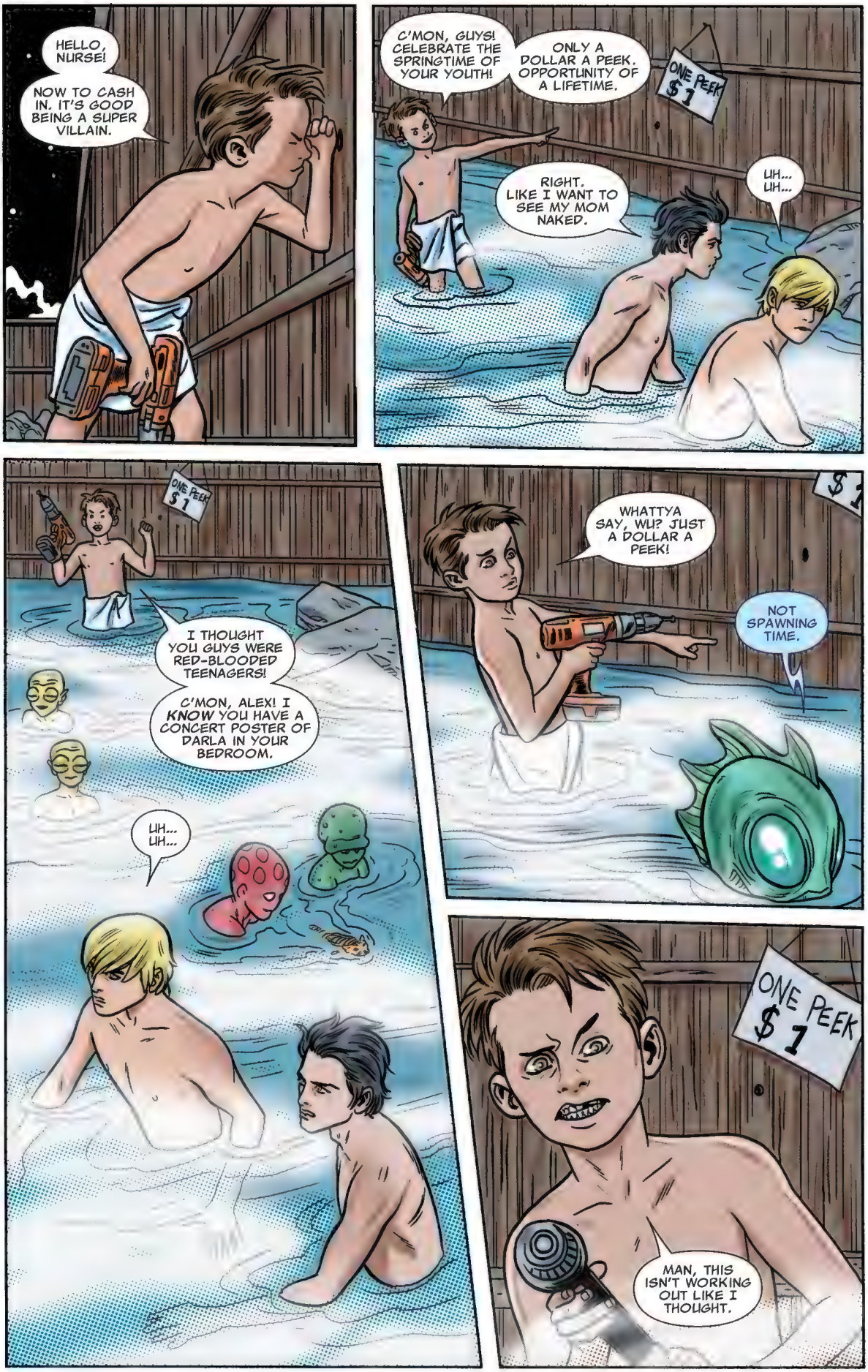

"BENTLEY. YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO MAKE LIKE A SUPER VILLAIN. HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.
"STRIP THE MAD THINKER'S LAB OF EVERY ROBOT YOU CAN FIND. ROB HIM BLIND.
"AND REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR ARMS AND HANDS INSIDE THE FIREGLOBE AT ALL TIMES.
"JEN. THAT GIDEON TRUST KNOCK-OFF OF THE AWESOME ANDROID THAT ALMOST KILLED US WAY BACK WHEN?
"WE COULD USE THAT, TOO. IT'S JUST GATHERING DUST IN THEIR AUSTIN, TEXAS BRANCH OFFICE.
HOOK 'EM HORNS!
DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS
"AHURA. THAT MOTHBALLED KREE SENTRY HERE ON THE MOON YOU SAID YOU SAW.
"GO TAKE ONOME AND LUNA AND SEE IF YOU CAN HOTWIRE IT TO FIGHT ON OUR SIDE. CONVINCE IT DOOM'S A SKRULL OR SOMETHING.
"MEDUSA. WE NEED A MAGICIAN. I KNOW WE HAVE DR. STRANGE ON SPEED DIAL, BUT THAT'S JUST EXACTLY WHAT DOOM'S EXPECTING.
"AN OBSCURE MAGICIAN NAMED DAKOR MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED IN 1942. GO DISAPPEAR HIM."
DRAGON MAN. THAT THING SUIT REMOTE CONTROL IDEA. FANTASTIC. BUILD AS MANY DUPLICATE THING SUITS AS YOU CAN.
AND A REMOTE CONTROL FOR EACH OF THE KIDS. TIME WE PUT THEIR MAD GAMING SKILLZ TO USE.
YES, MR. LANG, BUT IF I MIGHT ALSO SUGGEST--

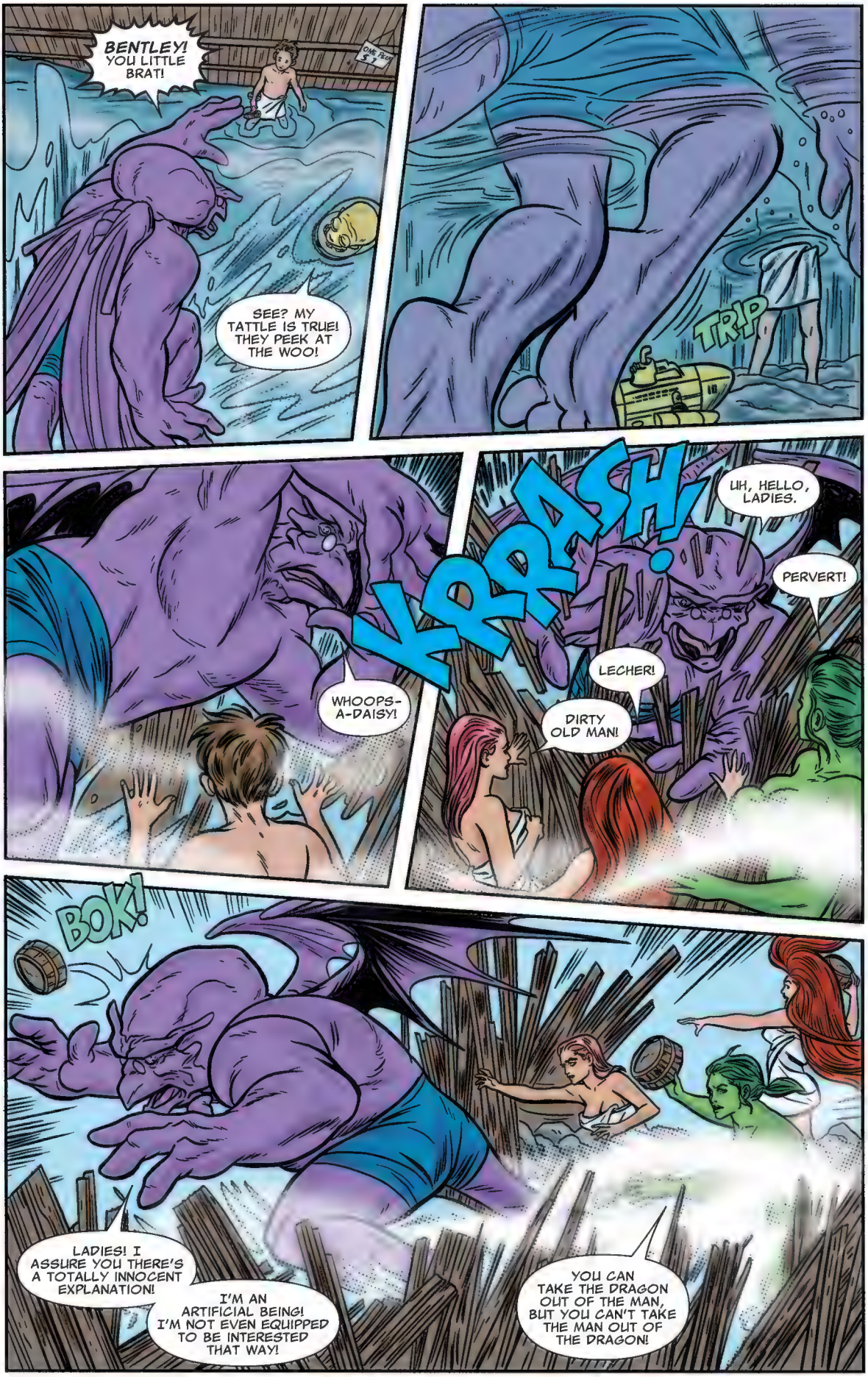

4 DRAGON MAN'S EPIDERMIS.
DRAGON MAN HAS SELFLESLLY OFFERED TO LET US CLONE HIM FOR MORE DRAGON MEN. TIME FOR AN IMPROMPTU ETHICS CLASS.
SURE WE CAN DO IT, BUT SHOULD WE DO IT?
BIGGER ARMY FOR US. HECK, YEAH!
HMMM. I SEE ISSUES, BUT THE OFFER WAS MADE FREELY.
IF THE CLONES HAVE MR. DRAGGY'S UPGRADED MENTALITY, WE'D BE ASKING THEM TO VIOLATE HIS OWN VOW OF NON-VIOLENCE.
AND IF THEY DON'T, THEN WE'RE JUST CREATING BODIES FOR DISPOSABLE USE. THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT, EITHER.
IN FACT, IT FEELS A LOT LIKE SLAVERY.
GOLD STAR FOR ONOME!
ARTIFICIAL OR NOT, DRAGON MAN HAS BECOME A THINKING, LIVING BEING IN HIS OWN RIGHT. WE DON'T CLONE FRIENDS--WE DON'T CLONE PEOPLE-- INTO CANNON FODDER.
NOT EVEN BENTLEYS?
NOT EVEN BENTLEYS.
SCOTT, I BROUGHT BACK THAT IDIOT MAGICIAN YOU WANTED. THERE'S A PROBLEM. HE WANTS TO BE PAID.
HE'S ONE OF THOSE HERO-FOR-HIRE TYPES. SORT OF LIKE LUKE CAGE.
ONLY HE'S A MAGICIAN. AND HE DRESSES NICE.
FINE, FINE. PUT HIM ON THE PAYROLL AS ANOTHER VISITING ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR.
OUR POOR BUDGET. REED'S GOING TO KILL ME.
JUST BE SURE TO PAY HIM 1942 WAGES. AND DON'T TELL HIM ABOUT INFLATION!
SNIFF SNIFF
HE'S GOT THE STINK OF DEATH ON HIM!
WELL, I SORT OF DIED ONCE OR TWICE.
IT HAPPENED A LOT IN THE 1940S. YOU GET USED TO IT.

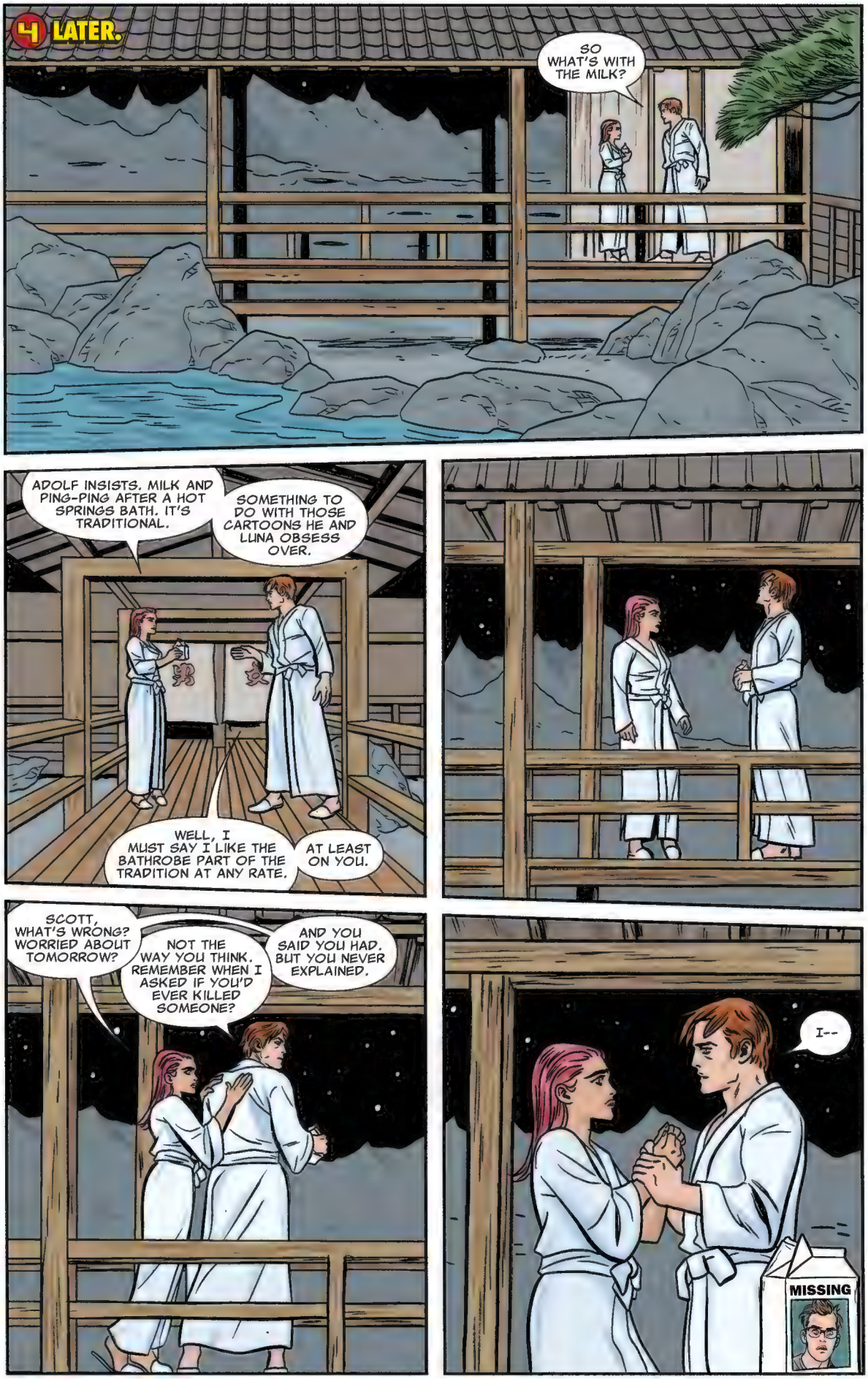

"OKAY, LET'S GET TO WORK! WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO SPARE!"
18
13
AH. STILL FORMULATING PLANS?
JUST WOOLGATHERING. YOUR ARCHIVES PUT THE AVENGERS' TO SHAME.
NO, I THINK I'M DONE. DRAGON MAN'S FINISHED, AND EVERYTHING ELSE IS PRETTY WELL SET.
WE'RE GOOD TO GO. WE LEAVE IN THE MORNING.
FOR HER SECTION OF THEIR HONEYMOON SUITE, MRS. RICHARDS REQUESTED A JAPANESE HOT SPRINGS RESORT.
MR. RICHARDS REQUESTED A WORK LAB. HE CHOSE POORLY.

UATU, YOU'RE A GOOD GUY. I WANT TO LIKE YOU. BUT I CAN'T.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH YOUR ARCHIVES. I SAW WHY YOU GAVE UP TRYING TO HELP OTHERS.
TOUGH DEAL, WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN.
I CAST THE DECIDING VOTE FOR THAT COURSE OF ACTION, TO MY ETERNAL SHAME.
SHAME? THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM. YOUR PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONES WHO TWISTED KNOWLEDGE INTO WEAPONS. YOU'RE NOT THE ONES WHO BUILT THOSE WEAPONS AND FIRED THEM.
BUT ALL THOSE WORLDS. ALL THOSE PEOPLE--
DO THEY OUTNUMBER THE DEATHS YOU HAVEN'T PREVENTED SINCE?
IF YOU WANT TO FEEL ASHAMED, FEEL ASHAMED YOU GAVE UP AFTER ONLY ONE TRY!
BUT WE--WE--
AT ANY RATE, ULANA AND I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY USE OF THE HOT SPRINGS TONIGHT.
THANKS. THE KIDS WILL LOVE THAT, AND SO WILL THE LADIES.
BUT NOT YOU.
YOU'VE GOT THOSE GREAT BIG HUGE BRAINS. USE THEM!
SURELY SOMEWHERE IN ALL YOUR ARCHIVES ARE EXAMPLES OF HOW TO HELP OTHER CULTURES SUCCESSFULLY.
LEARN FROM ALL THAT WATCHING, DON'T JUST FILE AND FORGET.
MAYBE START BY LOOKING AT HOW EARTH ERADICATED SMALLPOX.
IT IS NOT THAT SIMPLE.
SO WHY SHOULD YOU GET TO HAVE THINGS SIMPLE WHEN NOBODY ELSE DOES?
YOU DID NOTHING TO SAVE MY DAUGHTER WHEN YOU HAD THE POWER TO DO SO.
CAN YOU REALLY LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND TELL ME HER DEATH WAS A GREATER GOOD?
I--

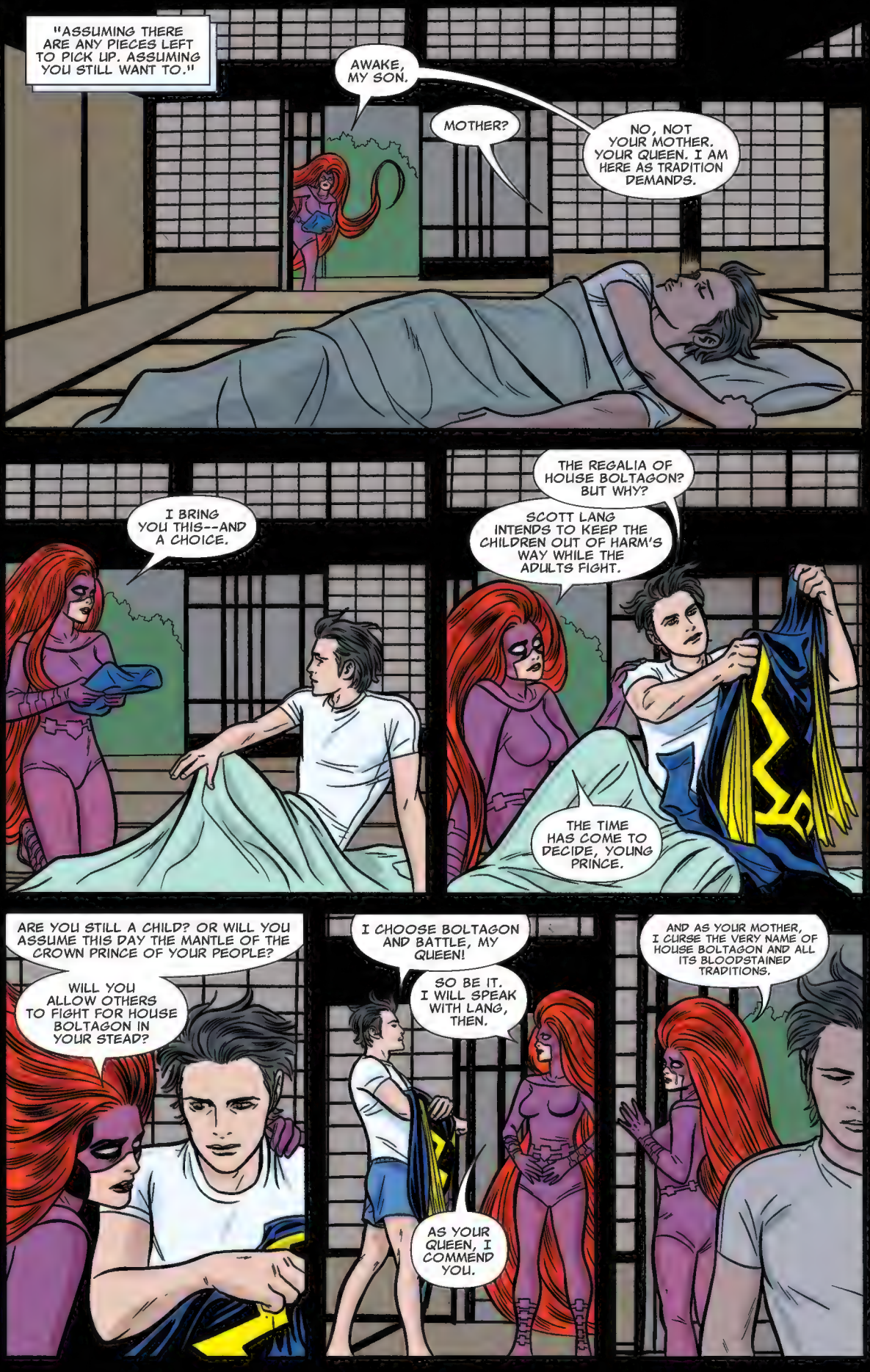

OH, LITTLE ONE. OUR KIND DOES NOT HAVE "DUE" DATES.
OUR CHILDREN ARRIVE WHENEVER THEY'RE READY. IT MIGHT BE TOMORROW. IT MIGHT BE CENTURIES.
ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT AND LOVE THEM WHILE THEY GROW.
:WHEW!: WATER'S WAY TOO ROASTY-TOASTY OVER THERE. MOVING BACK WHERE IT'S COOL BEFORE I PASS OUT.
SO HOW DO YOU GUYS DEAL WITH IT?
I MEAN, WE'RE TALKING DR. DOOM HERE. WE COULD ALL BE KILLED TOMORROW.
AREN'T YOU SCARED?
HON, WE'RE ALL SCARED. BUT SO WHAT? IT STILL HAS TO BE DONE.
WE HAVE THE TRAINING. WE HAVE THE ABILITY. BETTER US THAN SOMEBODY ELSE.
YOU DON'T SOUND AFRAID.
DARLA, EVERY TIME I SUIT UP, I'M PETRIFIED. PETRIFIED I'LL LET MY TEAMMATES DOWN.
PETRIFIED I'LL FAIL TO PROTECT THE ONES I LOVE.
THAT FEAR MAKES ME STRONG. STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THE IMPOSSIBLE.
STRONG ENOUGH THAT IF I FALL, I FALL WITH NO TEARS, NO REGRETS.
YOU'RE STRONG, TOO, DARLA. YOU'LL FIND THAT OUT TOMORROW.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOU'LL FIND THAT OUT.

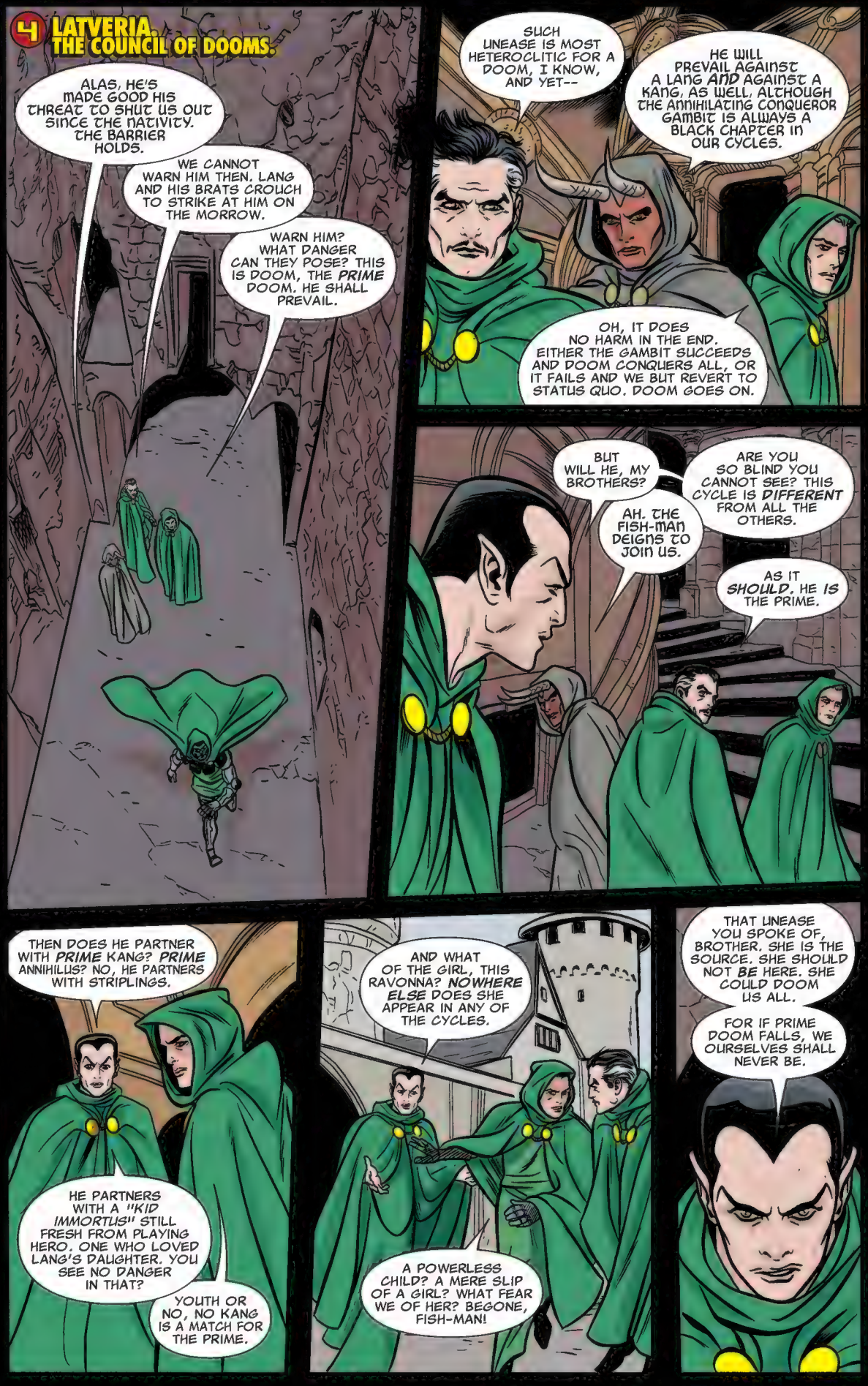

HELLO, NURSE!
NOW TO CASH IN. IT'S GOOD BEING A SUPER VILLAIN.
C'MON, GUYS! CELEBRATE THE SPRINGTIME OF YOUR YOUTH!
ONLY A DOLLAR A PEEK. OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME.
ONE PEEK $1
RIGHT. LIKE I WANT TO SEE MY MOM NAKED.
UH... UH...
ONE PEEK $1
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE RED-BLOODED TEENAGERS!
C'MON, ALEX! I KNOW YOU HAVE A CONCERT POSTER OF DARLA IN YOUR BEDROOM.
UH... UH...
WHATTYA SAY, WU? JUST A DOLLAR A PEEK!
NOT SPAWNING TIME.
ONE PEEK $1
MAN, THIS ISN'T WORKING OUT LIKE I THOUGHT.

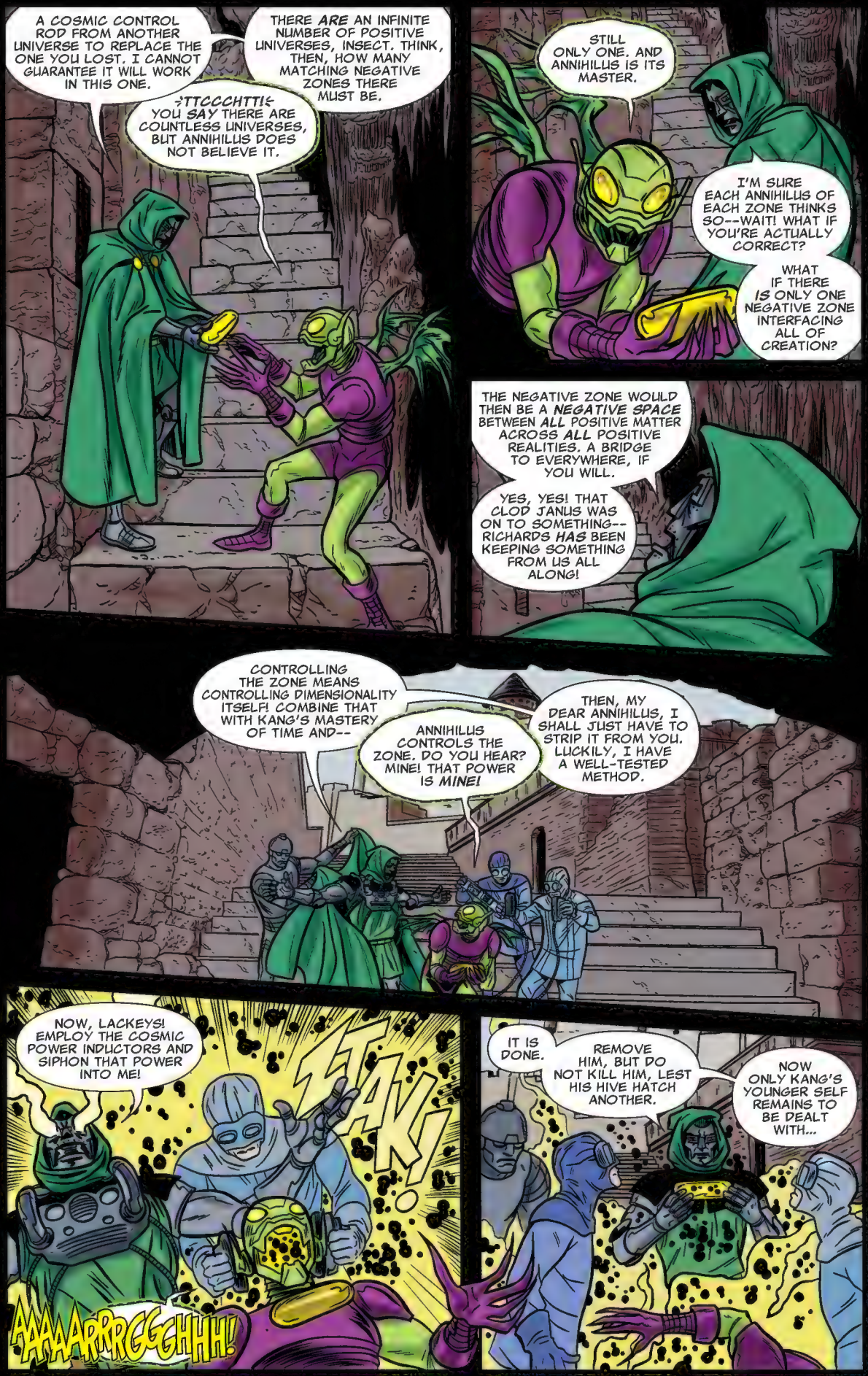

BENTLEY! YOU LITTLE BRAT!
ONE FOOT
SEE? MY TATTLE IS TRUE! THEY PEEK AT THE WOO!
TRIP
KRRASH!
WHOOPS-A-DAISY!
UH, HELLO, LADIES.
PERVERT!
LECHER!
DIRTY OLD MAN!
BOK!
LADIES! I ASSURE YOU THERE'S A TOTALLY INNOCENT EXPLANATION!
I'M AN ARTIFICIAL BEING! I'M NOT EVEN EQUIPPED TO BE INTERESTED THAT WAY!
YOU CAN TAKE THE DRAGON OUT OF THE MAN, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THE MAN OUT OF THE DRAGON!


4 LATER.
SO WHAT'S WITH THE MILK?
ADOLF INSISTS. MILK AND PING-PING AFTER A HOT SPRINGS BATH. IT'S TRADITIONAL.
SOMETHING TO DO WITH THOSE CARTOONS HE AND LUNA OBSESS OVER.
WELL, I MUST SAY I LIKE THE BATHROBE PART OF THE TRADITION AT ANY RATE.
AT LEAST ON YOU.
SCOTT, WHAT'S WRONG? WORRIED ABOUT TOMORROW?
NOT THE WAY YOU THINK. REMEMBER WHEN I ASKED IF YOU'D EVER KILLED SOMEONE?
AND YOU SAID YOU HAD, BUT YOU NEVER EXPLAINED.
I--
MISSING

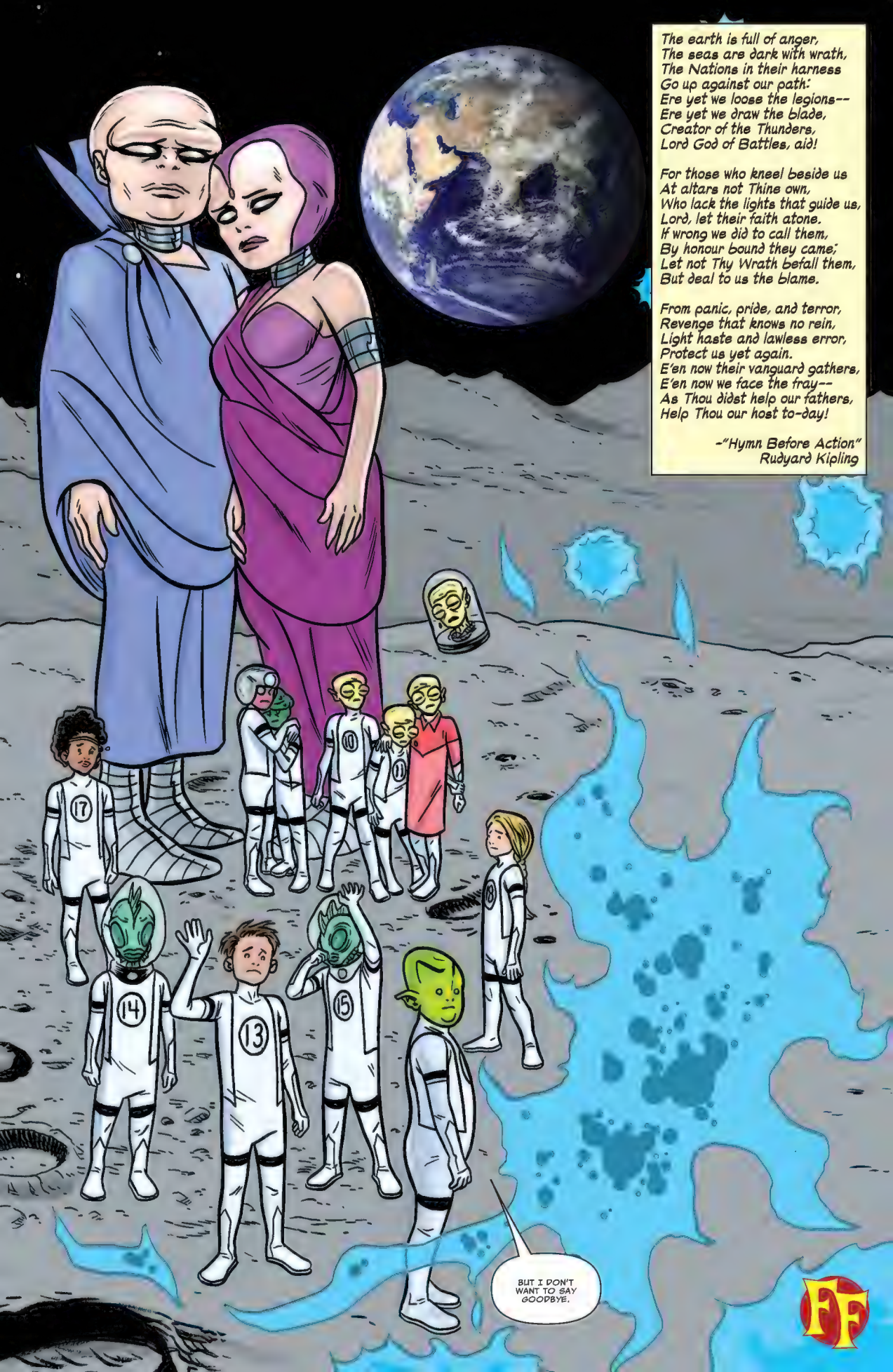
"THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO TO SURVIVE IN PRISON. YOU HAVE TO BECOME HARD INSIDE.
"HARD TO THE POINT WHERE YOU'RE NOT MORE THAN JUST A STEP ABOVE AN ANIMAL.
"SOME TANGO WENT JURAMENTADO ON ME WITH A HOMEMADE SHIV. I KILLED HIM WITH MY BARE FISTS.
"CLEAR SELF-DEFENSE THEY CALLED IT. DIDN'T EVEN AFFECT MY PAROLE HEARING.
"I KNEW BETTER.
"AS I STOOD OVER HIM WITH MY BLOODY FISTS...OH HELP ME, DARLA..."
I ENJOYED KILLING HIM. I ENJOYED FEELING HIS BONES BREAK, HIS BLOOD SPATTER.
I...I DON'T EVER WANT THAT PART OF ME LOOSE AGAIN.
I'M AFRAID OF TOMORROW. AFRAID I'LL LET THAT PART OF ME LOOSE.
I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO LET IT LOOSE TO WIN. I KNOW I'LL HAVE TO.
OH, SCOTT--
NO, DARLA. IT'S BEST WE JUST LEAVE THINGS BE UNTIL AFTER TOMORROW.
WE CAN PICK UP THE PIECES THEN.


"ASSUMING THERE ARE ANY PIECES LEFT TO PICK UP. ASSUMING YOU STILL WANT TO."
AWAKE, MY SON.
MOTHER?
NO, NOT YOUR MOTHER. YOUR QUEEN. I AM HERE AS TRADITION DEMANDS.
I BRING YOU THIS--AND A CHOICE.
THE REGALIA OF HOUSE BOLTAGON? BUT WHY?
SCOTT LANG INTENDS TO KEEP THE CHILDREN OUT OF HARM'S WAY WHILE THE ADULTS FIGHT.
THE TIME HAS COME TO DECIDE, YOUNG PRINCE.
ARE YOU STILL A CHILD? OR WILL YOU ASSUME THIS DAY THE MANTLE OF THE CROWN PRINCE OF YOUR PEOPLE?
WILL YOU ALLOW OTHERS TO FIGHT FOR HOUSE BOLTAGON IN YOUR STEAD?
I CHOOSE BOLTAGON AND BATTLE, MY QUEEN!
SO BE IT. I WILL SPEAK WITH LANG, THEN.
AS YOUR QUEEN, I COMMEND YOU.
AND AS YOUR MOTHER, I CURSE THE VERY NAME OF HOUSE BOLTAGON AND ALL ITS BLOODSTAINED TRADITIONS.


4 LATVERIA. THE COUNCIL OF DOOMS.
ALAS, HE'S MADE GOOD HIS THREAT TO SHUT US OUT SINCE THE NATIVITY. THE BARRIER HOLDS.
WE CANNOT WARN HIM THEN. LANG AND HIS BRATS CROUCH TO STRIKE AT HIM ON THE MORROW.
WARN HIM? WHAT DANGER CAN THEY POSE? THIS IS DOOM, THE PRIME DOOM. HE SHALL PREVAIL.
SUCH UNEASE IS MOST HETEROCLITIC FOR A DOOM, I KNOW, AND YET--
HE WILL PREVAIL AGAINST A LANG AND AGAINST A KANG, AS WELL, ALTHOUGH THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR GAMBIT IS ALWAYS A BLACK CHAPTER IN OUR CYCLES.
OH, IT DOES NO HARM IN THE END. EITHER THE GAMBIT SUCCEEDS AND DOOM CONQUERS ALL, OR IT FAILS AND WE BUT REVERT TO STATUS QUO. DOOM GOES ON.
BUT WILL HE, MY BROTHERS?
ARE YOU SO BLIND YOU CANNOT SEE? THIS CYCLE IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHERS.
AH. THE FISH-MAN DEIGNS TO JOIN US.
AS IT SHOULD. HE IS THE PRIME.
THEN DOES HE PARTNER WITH PRIME KANG? PRIME ANNIHILUS? NO, HE PARTNERS WITH STRIPLINGS.
HE PARTNERS WITH A "KID IMMORTUS" STILL FRESH FROM PLAYING HERO, ONE WHO LOVED LANG'S DAUGHTER. YOU SEE NO DANGER IN THAT?
YOUTH OR NO, NO KANG IS A MATCH FOR THE PRIME.
AND WHAT OF THE GIRL, THIS RAVONNA? NOWHERE ELSE DOES SHE APPEAR IN ANY OF THE CYCLES.
A POWERLESS CHILD? A MERE SLIP OF A GIRL? WHAT FEAR WE OF HER? BEGONE, FISH-MAN!
THAT UNEASE YOU SPOKE OF, BROTHER. SHE IS THE SOURCE. SHE SHOULD NOT BE HERE. SHE COULD DOOM US ALL.
FOR IF PRIME DOOM FALLS, WE OURSELVES SHALL NEVER BE.


A COSMIC CONTROL ROD FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE TO REPLACE THE ONE YOU LOST. I CANNOT GUARANTEE IT WILL WORK IN THIS ONE.
THERE ARE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF POSITIVE UNIVERSES, INSECT. THINK, THEN, HOW MANY MATCHING NEGATIVE ZONES THERE MUST BE.
;TTCCCHTT!; YOU SAY THERE ARE COUNTLESS UNIVERSES, BUT ANNIHILUS DOES NOT BELIEVE IT.
STILL ONLY ONE. AND ANNIHILUS IS ITS MASTER.
I'M SURE EACH ANNIHILUS OF EACH ZONE THINKS SO--WAIT! WHAT IF YOU'RE ACTUALLY CORRECT?
WHAT IF THERE IS ONLY ONE NEGATIVE ZONE INTERFACING ALL OF CREATION?
THE NEGATIVE ZONE WOULD THEN BE A NEGATIVE SPACE BETWEEN ALL POSITIVE MATTER ACROSS ALL POSITIVE REALITIES. A BRIDGE TO EVERYWHERE, IF YOU WILL.
YES, YES! THAT CLOD JANUS WAS ON TO SOMETHING--RICHARDS HAS BEEN KEEPING SOMETHING FROM US ALL ALONG!
CONTROLLING THE ZONE MEANS CONTROLLING DIMENSIONALITY ITSELF! COMBINE THAT WITH KANG'S MASTERY OF TIME AND--
ANNIHILUS CONTROLS THE ZONE. DO YOU HEAR? MINE! THAT POWER IS MINE!
THEN, MY DEAR ANNIHILUS, I SHALL JUST HAVE TO STRIP IT FROM YOU. LUCKILY, I HAVE A WELL-TESTED METHOD.
NOW, LACKEYS! EMPLOY THE COSMIC POWER INDUCTORS AND SIPHON THAT POWER INTO ME!
TAK!
AAAAARRRGGGHHH!
IT IS DONE.
REMOVE HIM, BUT DO NOT KILL HIM, LEST HIS HIVE HATCH ANOTHER.
NOW ONLY KANG'S YOUNGER SELF REMAINS TO BE DEALT WITH...

"...AND DOOM DOES NOT LOSE TO CHILDREN."
WITH AHURA AND ALEX GOING WITH US, THAT MAKES YOU THE MAN OF THE HOUSE, BENTLEY. CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO PROTECT THEM?
DO OUR HOUSE PROUD, LUNA.
GIVE YOUR AUNT DARLA A HUG. WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK. I PROMISE.
REMEMBER TO SET A LITTER BOX OUT FOR YOUR TIGER, YOU TWO. I STEPPED ON ONE OF CARGO'S SOUVENIRS LAST NIGHT.
MAN OF THE HOUSE? THAT COULD BE EVEN BETTER THAN SUPER VILLAIN!
OKAY, WE'VE BEEN OVER AND OVER THE PLAN. YOU ALL KNOW WHAT TO DO.
TIME TO MAKE A MOVIE-MOMENT SPEECH AND GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.
WE WILL FIGHT DOOM ON EVERY FRONT. PHYSICALLY. MENTALLY. EMOTIONALLY. MORALLY.
WE WILL STRIP DOOM OF HIS ESCAPE ROUTES. WE WILL STRIP DOOM OF HIS DEFENSES. WE WILL STRIP DOOM OF HIS HOSTAGES.
WE WILL STRIP HIM OF HIS ARMIES, HIS MAGICKS, HIS SCIENCES.
OF HIS VERY ARMOR UNTIL ONLY VICTOR VON DOOM, ONLY THE MAN HIMSELF, STANDS BEFORE US.
AND THAT IS WHEN THE FIGHT TRULY BEGINS.
MY FIGHT.
LET'S ROLL.


The earth is full of anger,
The seas are dark with wrath,
The Nations in their harness
Go up against our path:
Ere yet we loose the legions--
Ere yet we draw the blade,
Creator of the Thunders,
Lord God of Battles, aid!
For those who kneel beside us
At altars not Thine own,
Who lack the lights that guide us,
Lord, let their faith atone.
If wrong we did to call them,
By honour bound they came;
Let not Thy Wrath befall them,
But deal to us the blame.
From panic, pride, and terror,
Revenge that knows no rein,
Light haste and lawless error,
Protect us yet again.
E'en now their vanguard gathers,
E'en now we face the fray--
As Thou didst help our fathers,
Help Thou our host to-day!
-"Hymn Before Action"
Rudyard Kipling
BUT I DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE.

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

It's sadly time once again for us to mark another departure, as FANTASTIC FOUR artist Mark Bagley pulls up stakes so that he can concentrate on wrecking up the Ultimate Universe in CATACLYSM: THE ULTIMATES' LAST STAND. But at least Galactus is a part of that series, so he won't have gone too far from the FF. Joining us in his stead for the wrap-up of our run is Raffaele Ienco, most recently the creator of Image's EPIC KILL. And hey, did I say wrap-up? More after your letters!

Dear Mr. Fraction;

I find myself in an awkward position this week, as last week I wrote you quite an upset letter regarding the goings on in FF and your treatment of the Wizard, and now, here I sit today to praise you regarding your treatment of Ben Grimm in your latest issue.

As we now seem to be starting on a bit of a Thing arc, I am very pleased to see where you are taking this story.

This however brings me to a more complex question with regard to these two books. You are certainly taking very different storytelling styles in both. FF being far more Silver Age strange, and yet with an underlying darkness that I am sensing of late. Meanwhile FANTASTIC FOUR is a much weightier philosophical story following the heroes' quest of our first family of superheroism. Which makes me ask, are these books even more than tangentially related anymore?

My criticism of your dark turn in the last pages of FF aside, I have fully enjoyed both books up until now, and hope to continue to enjoy them for some time, but I can't shake the feeling that FF is just so out there that it is no longer really tied to the Fantastic Four anymore, let alone the greater Marvel Universe.

I can't help but imagine that the story we've been seeing is intended as an alternate timeline, that when the F4 gets back, the whole of the team will have been together for a mere six minutes, as promised, and the time we've invested in growth and character will all be undone.

I tend to give writers a lot of leeway, trusting you guys and gals to have a story and through line that will be ultimately logical and intelligent without using cheats or too many misdirections to render the mystery unsolvable to the reader. That powerful storytelling skill and presence is clear in FANTASTIC FOUR, and I've never been more intrigued by the mystery, and so I can't help but wonder why I don't feel as happy about your approach in FF. I do keep reading, because I do want to believe, so please don't disappoint.

Thanks for your time and consideration. I'll keep reading, certain that despite the occasional nerd rage inducement, the stories will continue to be wonderful and well worth the price of admission.

Make Mine Marvel,
Charlie Esser
Newark, NJ

P.S. Since you happened to have Wyatt Wingfoot stop by recently, is there any chance we'll see Sharon Ventura (Ms. Marvel/ She-Thing) stop by? Someone might want to tell her the kids figured out a cure for Thingism.

I can't speak for the way you feel about the work, Charlie—only you can do that. But I can assure you that FF does in fact take place within the Marvel Universe—the same Marvel Universe that's flexible enough to encompass characters and storylines as diverse as Daredevil "Born Again" and Deadpool. And you can rest assured, we're not going to reveal that the last 14+ issues of FF were all a dream or a fantasy or something.

Hey Matt,

I am a late bloomer to the FF party but it has been a blast catching up. Your words together with Mike and Laura's art is really something to behold. The balance between characters is great issue-to-issue. I don't feel like anyone is getting left behind. New characters are interesting enough, old characters are respected, and the kids each have their own personalities represented. Keep it up!

One bit of criticism: Blarrgh the Unliving and Bworg the Many-Spouted. Two unknown river-dwelling monsters summoned by youth to solve a problem, seen for two panels each, and in two consecutive issues? What are these, comic books?

Keep the fun coming and I'll keep the payroll flowing from my small part of the business.

Dubya D. Harnish
Laramie, Wyoming

Hey everyone!

I just wanted to drop a line to compliment you on the usual stuff - Fraction's writing is fun and smart, the Allreds' art is effervescent, Cowles' letters are pitch perfect - and some not so usual stuff: it's been mighty refreshing to see some progressive depictions of sexuality in recent Marvel stuff (YOUNG AVENGERS is another standout), but especially in FF. Tong's decision to be a girl, and his family's acceptance of that, brought more tears to my eye than I ever thought mole-people could do. Then, The Wizard's proclamation that "ALL OF YOU PALE BEFORE OUR HETERONORMATIVE CISGENDERED CLASSIFICATION OF FAMILY!" had me laughing 'til I cried.

What's all the better is none of these messages are preachy, and they fit perfectly into the theme of FF - and the Fantastic Four - that's been there since the start and Fraction has been canny to latch onto: family is family, even if said family consists of a couple, their kids, their adopted alien/robot/monster children, a friend made of rocks and a brother-in-law who's on fire. The cosmic family is way better than the nuclear family.

Yours fantastically,
Tom Baker
England

I'm a gnarled, miserable old cynic of a 46 year old Marvelite and I ain't got time for books filled with pesky kids. Only, apparently, now I do. I've been pulled into the Fraction and Allred FF and find that I LOVE books filled with pesky kids. Pesky kids are interesting. Pesky kids are funny. Pesky kids are one of the revelations of Marvel Now! and so long as they stay off my lawn those pesky kids will stay on my regular order.

John Roche
Wales, UK.

I haven't been into comics for too long (maybe a year), but I've always stuck with the most popular characters: Hulk, Avengers, and Spider-Man. I had no interest in reading about Scott Lang, or She-Hulk, or any other of the members of the new FF team. But then, one fateful day, I decided to pick up a copy of FF #1. Best. Decision. Ever.

Fraction has created a super-hero team that I literally can't stop talking about. Same with his HAWKEYE series (IT'S SO GREAT). And by far Scott is my favorite. I'm pretty sure he's even becoming my favorite super hero, and that's something hard for me to type out.

The new FF series has made me laugh, cry, and feel sorry for a lot of the characters. Especially Scott, since he is coming right out of CHILDREN'S CRUSADE. It's a comic I will never stop getting.

Anyways, I just wanted to say thank you Matt Fraction for writing my favorite comic of the year (and all time!), and I hope you keep writing it for years to come.

Brett Schaffer

Howdy!

I wanted to take a moment to tell you that three-year-old Joe has announced that FF is his favorite comic, beating out Captain Underpants and Super Diaper Baby. Congrats to Matt Fraction and the Allreds on a big-boy book that I feel I can share with Joe.

Thanks,
Susan Cotton
Bryan, Texas

You're never too young to start becoming a Marvel fan, Susan! Thanks for bringing Joe up right!

Greetings!

The first comic I purchased new was FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #3 back in the sixties. Reed and Sue's wedding. I was hooked. I have never missed an issue since. Thru college and law school, when I didn't have enough money for hot food, I stayed loyal to the first family. Even during the crappy times (The Thing in a helmet, please) I was there. Heck, I even named my first son Benjamin! But this is my FIRST letter.

I just finished issue #9 and realized that I am more invested in the story now than 40 plus years ago. You guys are doing the impossible, making the great...better. How you have managed to make these stories fresh is ... Fantastic. Two requests: We need more Sue, and when can we go back to the REAL numbering? I like knowing how many issues we are up to!

Dail R. Cantrell

There might not be time left for either of your requests, Dail! As I mentioned at the start of this page, we're going to be wrapping up the storyline that began in FANTASTIC FOUR #1 and FF #1 in the sixteenth issues of both titles—each of which will be the final issue of said series! What comes next? Well, you'll just have to wait and see! And we'll have two more Fan Pages to share our thoughts with one another before the end as well!

Tom B
10/16/13

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can e-mail it to us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!

FANTASTIC FOUR
#15
FRACTION | KESEL | IENCO

FF
#15
FRACTION | ALLRED | ALLRED

MARVEL

MATT FRACTION
LEE ALLRED
MICHAEL ALLRED
LAURA ALLRED

015

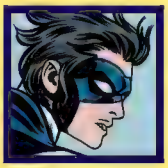
THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

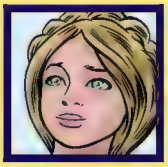
While away on their cosmic family vacation, the Fantastic Four left the young and brilliant children of the Future Foundation in the care of Ant-Man, Darla Deering, Medusa and She-Hulk. Soon after the Fantastic Four left, a scarred, traumatized older John Storm returned, claiming the team had all died at the hand of Doom, the Annihilating Conqueror!

Cosmic alien Julius Caesar worked with Maximus the Mad to build a Multilinear Chronostellar Manifold to retrieve the Fantastic Four. Doom kidnapped foundation student Alex Power's parents and ordered him to steal the plans for the machine and kill Old John Storm.

Ant-Man discovered Doom's plan and used the Manifold to go to the Blue Area of the Moon, home to Uatu the Watcher, where Doom and his cadre of villainous cohorts (Kid Immortus, Annihilus and Ravonna) could not find them. While the FF developed a plan to take him down, Doom used the Cosmic Power Siphon to steal Annihilus's power, then set his sights on Kid Immortus!

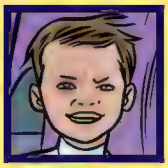
ALEX POWER


AHURA

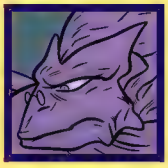

LUNA

LEECH

ARTIE MADDICKS

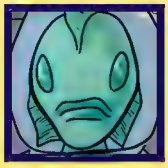

BENTLEY-23

ADOLF IMPOSSIBLE


DRAGON MAN

ONOME

VIL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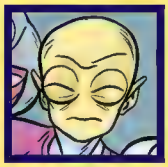
TONG

OPERATION: LATVERIA

MATT FRACTION & LEE ALLRED
story

LEE ALLRED
script

MICHAEL ALLRED
artist

LAURA ALLRED
color artist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
letterer

MICHAEL & LAURA ALLRED
cover artists

JAKE THOMAS
assistant editor

TOM BREVOORT
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AXEL ALONSO
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
executive producer

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
COMIC COMMANDOS!

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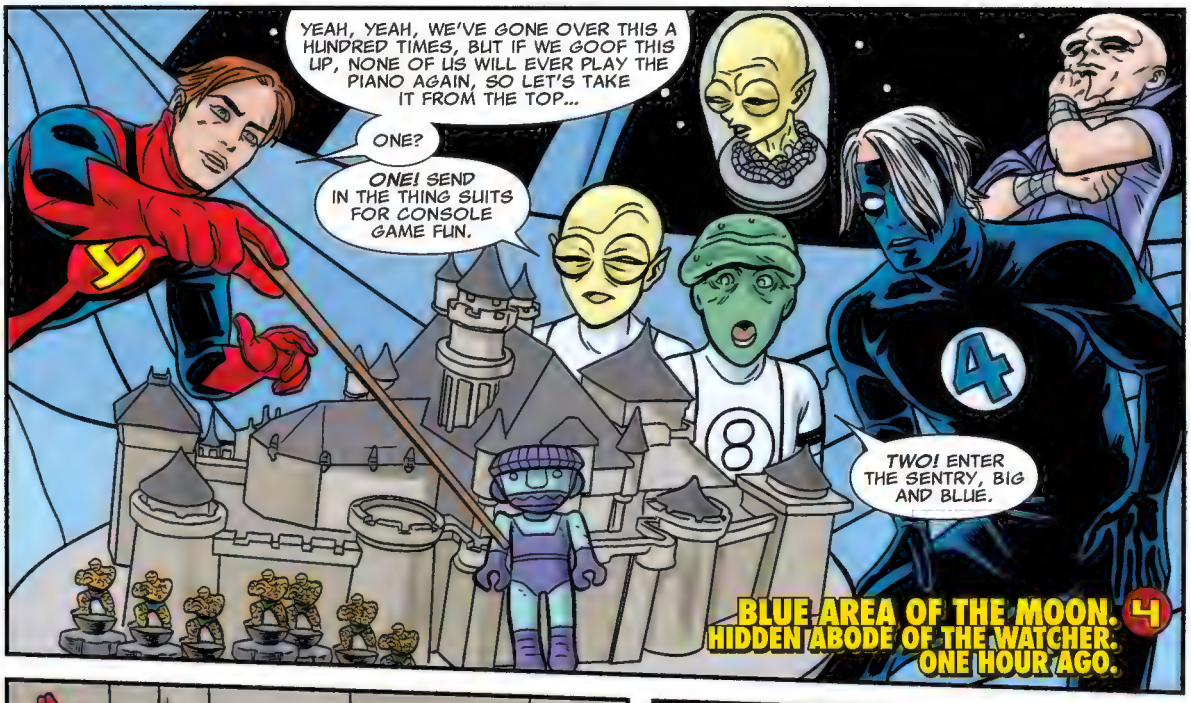
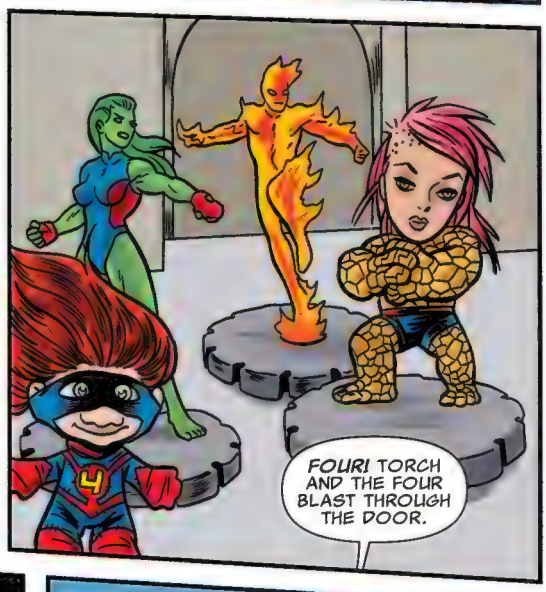

YEAH, YEAH, WE'VE GONE OVER THIS A HUNDRED TIMES, BUT IF WE GOOF THIS UP, NONE OF US WILL EVER PLAY THE PIANO AGAIN, SO LET'S TAKE IT FROM THE TOP...
ONE?
ONE! SEND IN THE THING SUITS FOR CONSOLE GAME FUN.
TWO! ENTER THE SENTRY, BIG AND BLUE.
BLUE AREA OF THE MOON. HIDDEN ABODE OF THE WATCHER. ONE HOUR AGO.

THREE! MAD THINKER'S ANDROIDS GO FIGHT LIKE THEY'RE KREE.

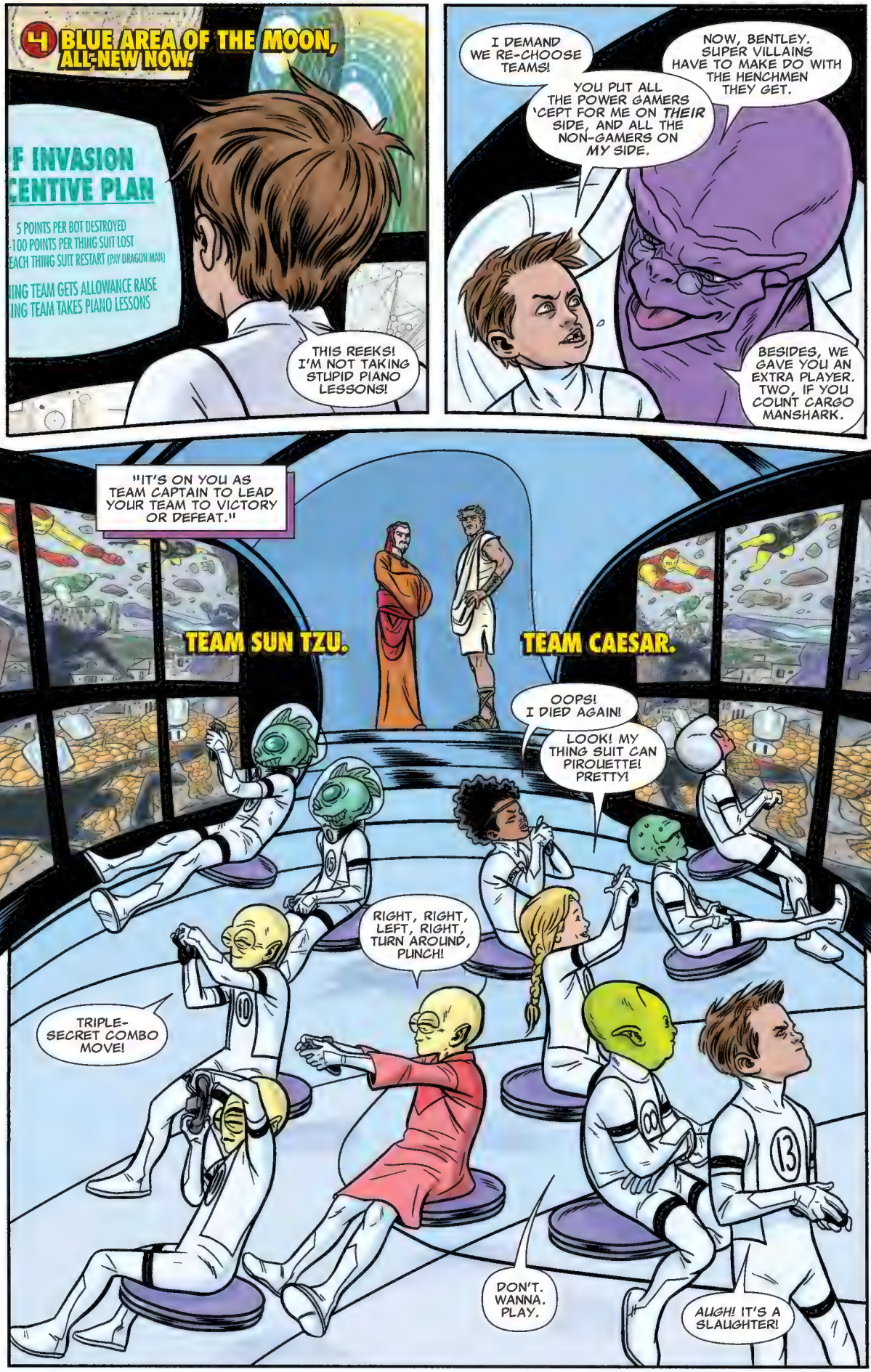

FOUR! TORCH AND THE FOUR BLAST THROUGH THE DOOR.

FIVE! ALEX AND PARENTS RETURN ALIVE.

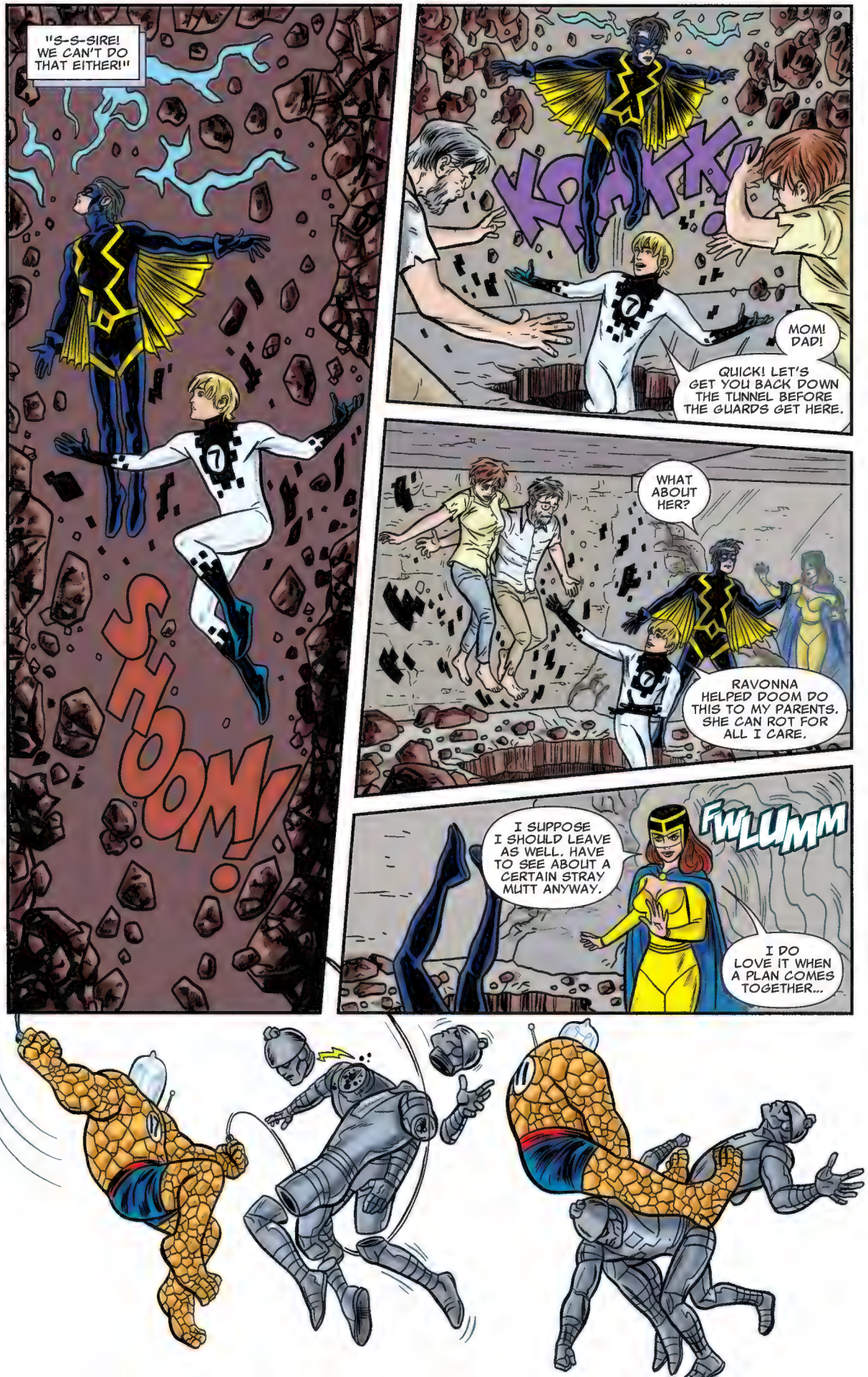
SIX! OLD TIME MAGICIAN GIVES DOOMSTER THE HEX.

SEVEN! BREAKING HIS BOOSTERS MEANS DOOM'S POWER LESSENS.
EIGHT! JAM THE MIND-TRANSFERS SO DOOMSY CAN'T SKATE.
NINE! ALL OF DOOM'S DOOMBOTS DON'T FEEL VERY FINE.
TEN! SMASH CASTLE DOOM GADGETS AGAIN AND AGAIN.
ELEVEN! BREAK UP THE MERGER, NO CROSS-TIME AGGRESSION.
TWELVE! GRAB ON TO DOOM'S ARMOR AND DRAIN THE MAD ELF.
4
4
THIRTEEN! ZERO HOUR.
DOOM'S CUT OFF, ADRIFT, AND JUST SPAM IN A CAN.
AND THE ANT?
THE ANT FINISHES THE JOB.
SEE THAT HE DOES, OR WE'RE ALL IN DEEP DOO-DOO.

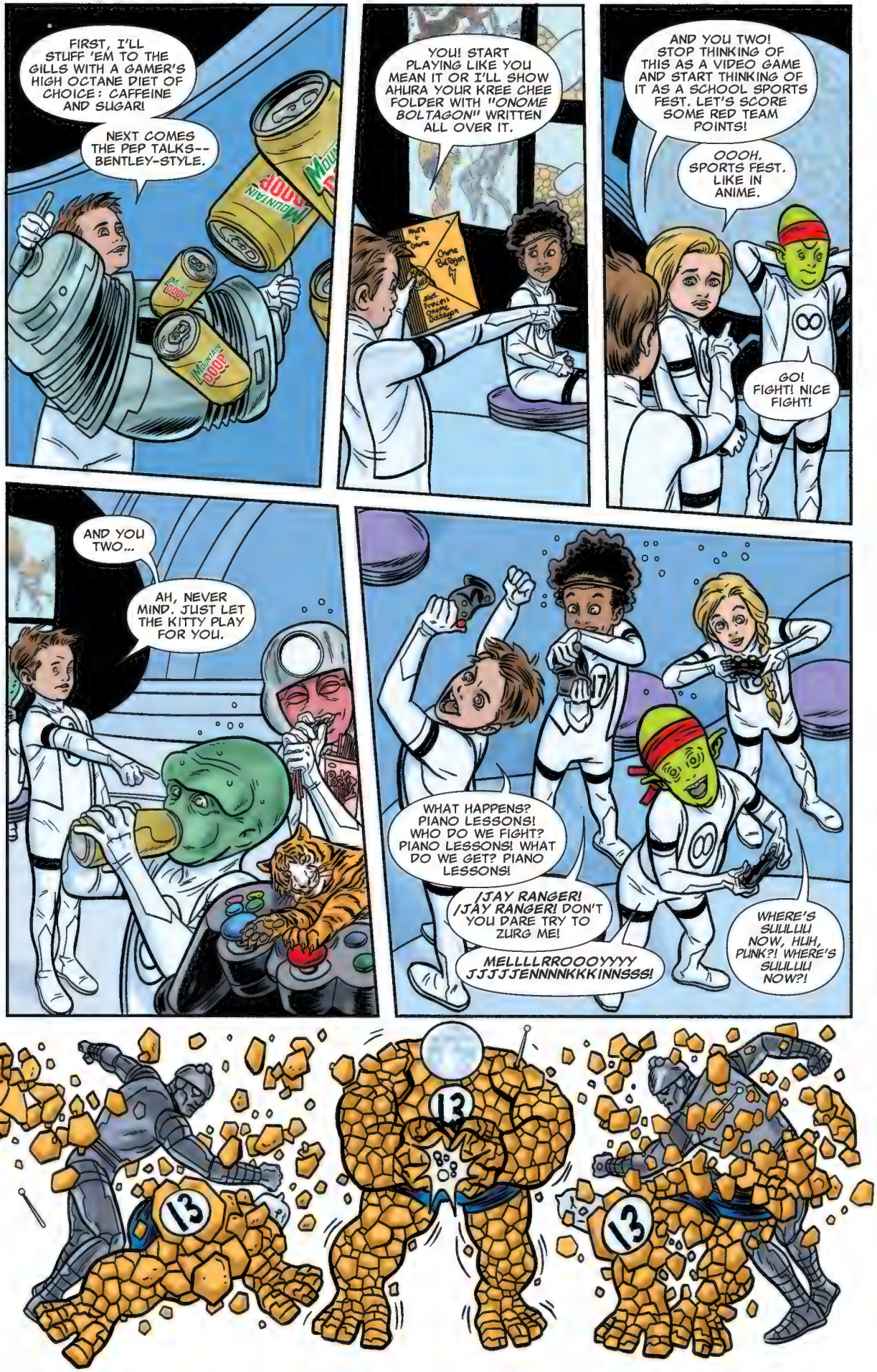
DOWNTOWN DOOMSTADT, LATVERIA. NOW. 4
GO. HUNT. KILL SKRULLS.
GO. HUNT. KILL SKRULLS.
BLOOM!
RED ROVER, RED ROVER, SEND DOC DOOM RIGHT OVER!
⇢KLIK!⇠ ALERT-THE-MASTERRRR--⇢URKKK!⇠
⇢KLIK!⇠ LATVERIA-IS-UNDER-ASSAULT. ⇢KLIK!⇠

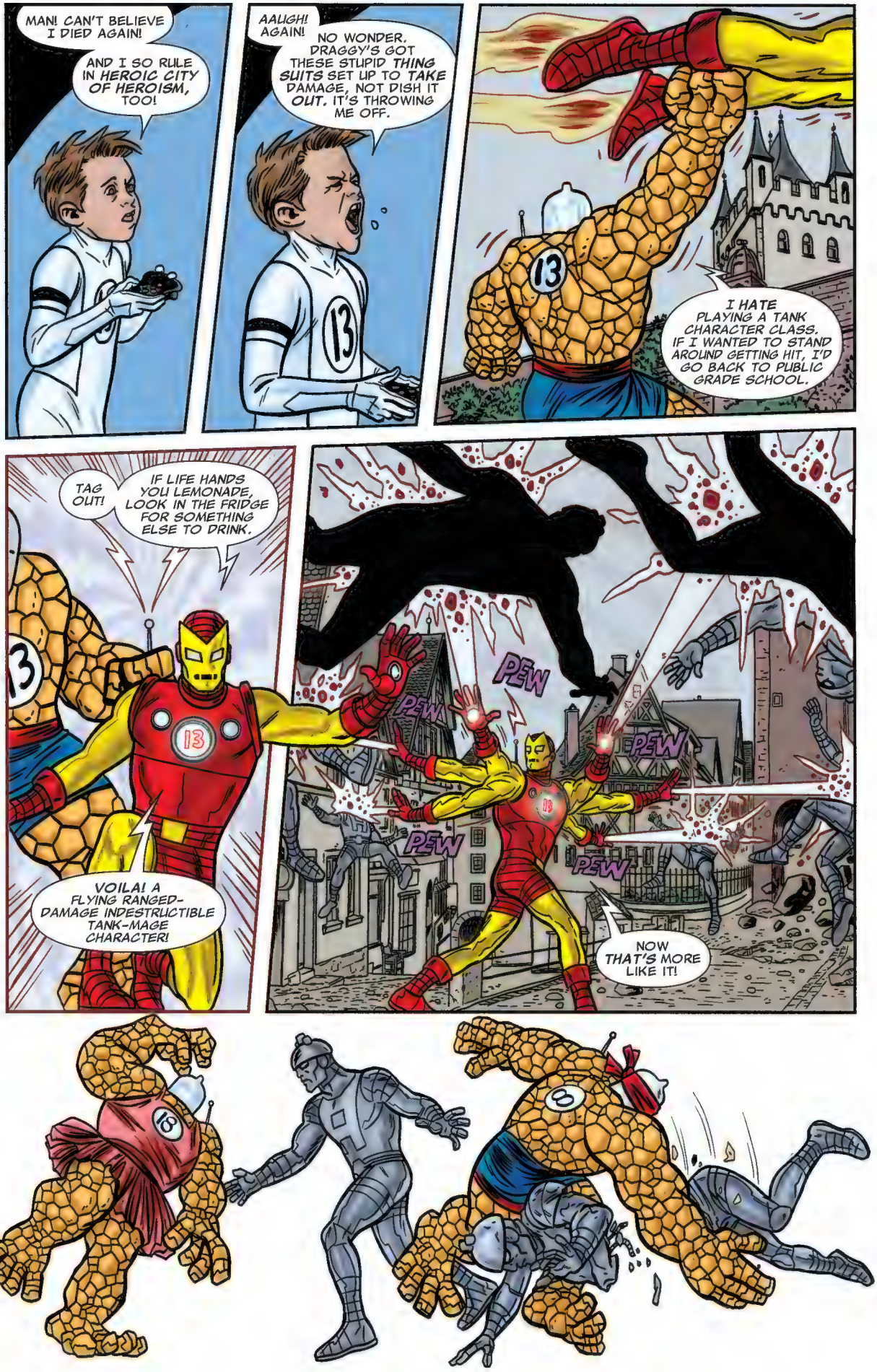

4 BLUE AREA OF THE MOON, ALL-NEW NOW!
F INVASION
CENTIVE PLAN
5 POINTS PER BOT DESTROYED
100 POINTS PER THING SUIT LOST
EACH THING SUIT RESTART (PAY DRAGON MAN)
ING TEAM GETS ALLOWANCE RAISE
ING TEAM TAKES PIANO LESSONS
THIS REEKS! I'M NOT TAKING STUPID PIANO LESSONS!
I DEMAND WE RE-CHOOSE TEAMS!
YOU PUT ALL THE POWER GAMERS 'CEPT FOR ME ON THEIR SIDE, AND ALL THE NON-GAMERS ON MY SIDE.
NOW, BENTLEY. SUPER VILLAINS HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH THE HENCHMEN THEY GET.
BESIDES, WE GAVE YOU AN EXTRA PLAYER. TWO, IF YOU COUNT CARGO MANSHARK.
"IT'S ON YOU AS TEAM CAPTAIN TO LEAD YOUR TEAM TO VICTORY OR DEFEAT."
TEAM SUN TZU.
TEAM CAESAR.
OOPS! I DIED AGAIN!
LOOK! MY THING SUIT CAN PIROUETTE! PRETTY!
RIGHT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, TURN AROUND, PUNCH!
TRIPLE-SECRET COMBO MOVE!
DON'T. WANNA. PLAY.
AUGH! IT'S A SLAUGHTER!

SO. LANG'S BRATS WANT TO PLAY. I'LL SHOW THEM FUN-AND-GAMES.
I WARNED YOU ABOUT THOSE ANOMALIES, BUT DID YOU LISTEN?
THOSE ROBOTS ARE OBVIOUSLY A FEINT TO DISTRACT ME FROM THE FOUR ADULTS.
OPERATION CENTER! ORDER ALL SERVO-GUARDS BACK TO THE CASTLE!
TURG WAS HERE
B-BUT MASTER! WE CAN'T! WE'VE LOST OUR CONTROL NETWORK!
BAH! THEN ACTIVATE DIRECT CONTROL OF CASTLE DEFENSES-- NOW!
JERK HACKING
DUPIN RARES
ALL YOUR SYSTE
GOME TO THE
AMERICAS!!!
T-T-THAT'S DOWN, TOO.
NO MATTER. THEIR BUILT-IN PROGRAMMING WILL SUFFICE TO SLOW LANG DOWN LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO FINISH HIM OFF PERSONALLY.
ACTIVATE THE TESLACS!
M-MASTER! THE BROADCAST GENERATORS THAT AUGMENT YOUR ARMOR'S POWER--THEY'RE-- THEY'RE--
ARRRRRRRGH! WILL NO ONE RID ME OF THESE MEDDLESOME KIDS?!
ENOUGH! GUARDS! BRING ME THE HEADS OF THE POWER COUPLE!

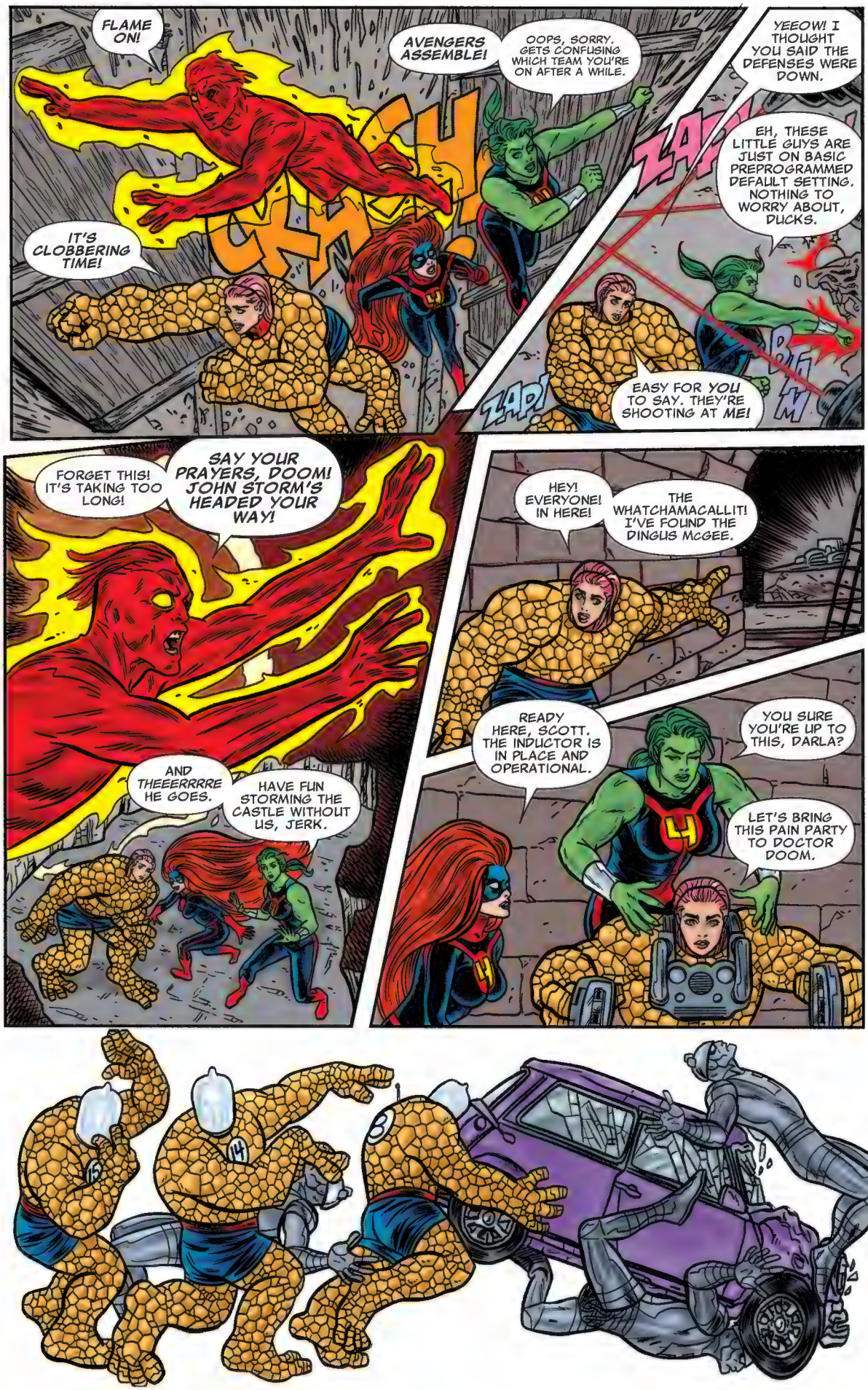

"S-S-SIRE! WE CAN'T DO THAT EITHER!"
SHOOM!
KRAK!
MOM! DAD!
QUICK! LET'S GET YOU BACK DOWN THE TUNNEL BEFORE THE GUARDS GET HERE.
WHAT ABOUT HER?
RAVONNA HELPED DOOM DO THIS TO MY PARENTS. SHE CAN ROT FOR ALL I CARE.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD LEAVE AS WELL. HAVE TO SEE ABOUT A CERTAIN STRAY MUTT ANYWAY.
FWLUMM
I DO LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER...

RAPIDITY IS THE ESSENCE OF WAR: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ENEMY UNREADINESS. ADVANCE UNEXPECTANTLY. ATTACK UNEXPECTANTLY.
YES, WELL. GAUL IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS, SO WE WILL SPLIT OUR FORCES HERE, HERE, AND HERE...AND THEN, AH, VENI, VIDI, AND THAT OTHER THINGIE.
DIVIDE IN THREE? CARVE DOOM AS A DISH FIT FOR THE GODS, NOT HEW HIM AS A CARCASS FIT FOR HOUNDS!
SO! SUN TZU KNOWS FULL WELL THAT CAESAR IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN HE.
WE BE TWO LIONS LITTERED IN ONE DAY, BUT I THE ELDER AND MORE TERRIBLE!
O ELDER CAESAR! WHY DOST THOU LIE SO LOW? ARE ALL THY GLORIES SHRUNK TO THIS LITTLE MEASURE?
UPSTART! I BESTRIDE THIS NARROW WORLD LIKE A COLOSSUS; AND PETTY MEN LIKE YOU WALK UNDER MY HUGE LEGS, AND PEEP ABOUT!
SHEEESH! SO MUCH FOR ANY "EXPERT" COACHING OUT OF THOSE TWO.
LOOKS LIKE IF I WANNA AVOID PIANO LESSONS, I'LL HAVE TO COACH MY TEAM MYSELF!


FIRST, I'LL STUFF 'EM TO THE GILLS WITH A GAMER'S HIGH OCTANE DIET OF CHOICE: CAFFEINE AND SUGAR!
NEXT COMES THE PEP TALKS-- BENTLEY-STYLE.
YOU! START PLAYING LIKE YOU MEAN IT OR I'LL SHOW AHURA YOUR KREE CHEE FOLDER WITH "ONOME BOLTAGON" WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.
AND YOU TWO! STOP THINKING OF THIS AS A VIDEO GAME AND START THINKING OF IT AS A SCHOOL SPORTS FEST. LET'S SCORE SOME RED TEAM POINTS!
OOOH, SPORTS FEST. LIKE IN ANIME.
GO! FIGHT! NICE FIGHT!
AND YOU TWO...
AH, NEVER MIND. JUST LET THE KITTY PLAY FOR YOU.
WHAT HAPPENS? PIANO LESSONS! WHO DO WE FIGHT? PIANO LESSONS! WHAT DO WE GET? PIANO LESSONS!
/JAY RANGER! /JAY RANGER! DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO ZURG ME!
MELLLLRROOOYYYY JJJJJENNNNKKKINNSSS!
WHERE'S SULULU NOW, HUH, PUNK?! WHERE'S SULULU NOW?!


MAN! CAN'T BELIEVE I DIED AGAIN!
AND I SO RULE IN HEROIC CITY OF HEROISM, TOO!
AAUGH! AGAIN!
NO WONDER. DRAGGY'S GOT THESE STUPID THING SUITS SET UP TO TAKE DAMAGE, NOT DISH IT OUT. IT'S THROWING ME OFF.
I HATE PLAYING A TANK CHARACTER CLASS. IF I WANTED TO STAND AROUND GETTING HIT, I'D GO BACK TO PUBLIC GRADE SCHOOL.
TAG OUT!
IF LIFE HANDS YOU LEMONADE, LOOK IN THE FRIDGE FOR SOMETHING ELSE TO DRINK.
VOILA! A FLYING RANGED-DAMAGE INDESTRUCTIBLE TANK-MAGE CHARACTER!
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

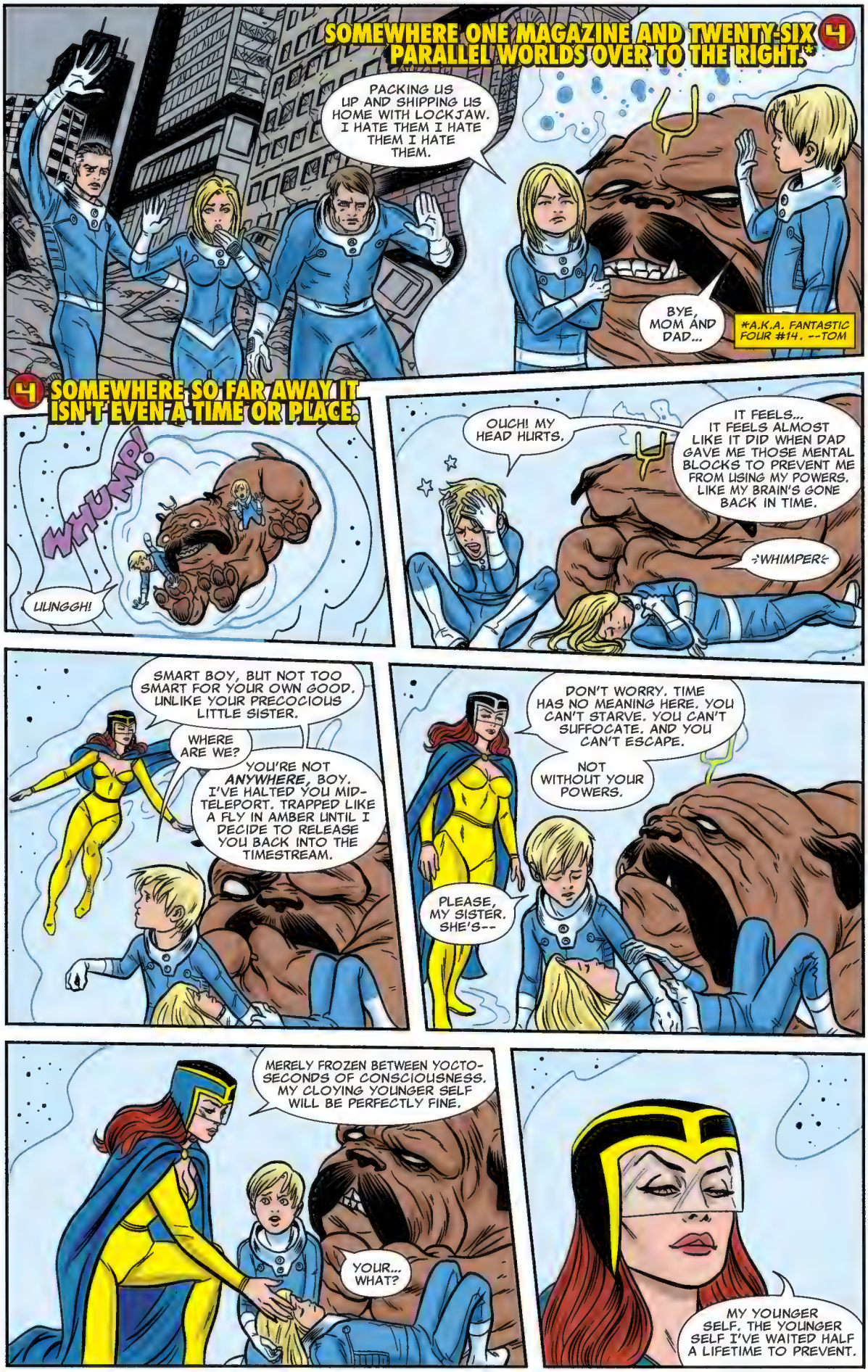
HEY, DRAGGS! HOW LONG BEFORE WE HIT THE CASTLE? CRAZY OLD JOHN ISN'T GOING TO WAIT MUCH LONGER. HE'S DOING HIS CRAZY EYE THING.
CASTLE DEFENSES NEUTRALIZED OR SUBORNED, MS. WALTERS, AND ALL SERVO-GUARDS HAVE BEEN DECOYED AWAY FROM CASTLE.
WHAT'S THE STATUS ON YOUR END, MR. DAKOR?
HA! I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS DOOM WAS A MIGHTY SORCERER. HE'S NOTHING BUT A DABBLER, A DILETTANTE.
DOOM'S MAGIC IS ALL FLASH AND SHOW AND ILLUSION. IT ONLY LOOKS POWERFUL.
TRUE MAGICAL POWER REQUIRES A PIECE OF ITS USER'S SOUL EACH TIME HE CASTS. THIS DOOM IS THE SORT WHO REFUSES TO PAY ANY PRICE AT ALL.
I'VE FOUGHT HIS KIND BEFORE.
THERE. DOOM WON'T BE ABLE TO SO MUCH AS PULL A RABBIT OUT OF A HAT NOW.
WE ARE GO, MS. WALTERS. REPEAT: WE ARE GO!


FLAME ON!
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
OOPS, SORRY. GETS CONFUSING WHICH TEAM YOU'RE ON AFTER A WHILE.
YEEOW! I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE DEFENSES WERE DOWN.
IT'S CLOBBERING TIME!
CKH
ZAP!
EH, THESE LITTLE GUYS ARE JUST ON BASIC PREPROGRAMMED DEFAULT SETTING. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, DUCKS.
ZAP!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME!
FORGET THIS! IT'S TAKING TOO LONG!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, DOOM! JOHN STORM'S HEADED YOUR WAY!
HEY! EVERYONE! IN HERE!
THE WHATCHAMACALLIT! I'VE FOUND THE DINGUS McGEE.
AND THEEERRRRE HE GOES.
HAVE FUN STORMING THE CASTLE WITHOUT US, JERK.
READY HERE, SCOTT. THE INDUCTOR IS IN PLACE AND OPERATIONAL.
YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO THIS, DARLA?
LET'S BRING THIS PAIN PARTY TO DOCTOR DOOM.

4
LATVERIAN EMBASSY. NEW YORK CITY.
YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE! THIS EMBASSY IS SACRED SOVEREIGN SOIL OF LATVERIA--
THE CITY-STATE OF ATTILAN HAS REASON TO BELIEVE YOUR SACRED SOIL IS HARBORING ABDUCTED MEMBERS OF OUR ROYAL FAMILY. STAND ASIDE!
I ASSURE YOU WE HARBOR NO--
TH-THE MASTER IS GOING TO BE QUITE CROSS.
YOUR TELEPATHIC PREMONITION WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY CORRECT, MY KING.
LET ME OUT OF HERE!

IT WASN'T DOOM, IT WAS THE ANT! HE SHRUNK ME DOWN TO THE SIZE OF A TIGER WHEN WE WERE RIDING INSIDE PURPLE PANTS AFTER JULIUS CAESAR--HE'S A PINK CLOUD BY THE WAY-- TRICKED ME OVER A COMPLETE BREAKFAST AFTER I WORE A ROBOT FOR A HAT AND THEN THE HOUSE ON THE MOON HAD THE BATHROOMS BUT I WAS IN THE BAG THAT DIDN'T AND IT WAS DARK AND THEY STOLE A ROBOT FROM TEXAS AND THEN THE ANT PLANTED ME HERE TO GIVE THEM A PRETEXT TO SMASH--
PAY HIM NO HEED. HE IS KNOWN AS MAXIMUS THE MAD FOR A REASON.
OH, DEAR! THE MASTER'S DOOMBOTS AND SPARE BRAIN-RECEPTACLE ANDROIDS. SMASHED BEYOND REPAIR.
I'D FLEE TO THE ENDS OF THE UNIVERSE IF I WERE YOU.
VICTOR VON DOOM WILL NEED TO FLEE IF WE DO NOT FIND OUR OTHER MISSING INHUMANS. EVEN NOW WE SEARCH YOUR OTHER EMBASSIES.
4 NORTH KOREA.
KRAK!
4 IRAN.
BUROOM!
4 SYRIA.
SHOOOSH!

4 LATVERIA.
THOSE KREE-SPAWNED FREAKS WILL PAY FOR THAT!
PERHAPS NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO DISCUSS BECOMING DOOM THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR.
SHOOOSH!
DOOOOMMMM!
ONE MOMENT.
FFOOOMM!
NOW THEN. YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT DOOM NEEDING HELP?
SUFFICIENT UNTO THE DAY IS THE EVIL OF DOOM THEREOF. HE NEEDS NO BORROWED SUPREMACY.
4 BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.
JENNIFER! DOOM HASN'T MERGED YET, BUT KID IMMORTUS IS TRYING TO HARD SELL HIM INTO IT.
ETA IN ONE MINUTE, SCOTT, GIVE OR TAKE A DOOMBOT SQUAD OR TWO.
WE MIGHT JUST PULL THIS OFF YET, UATU.
UATU?
THAT'S NOT GOOD.


SOMEWHERE ONE MAGAZINE AND TWENTY-SIX PARALLEL WORLDS OVER TO THE RIGHT.*
PACKING US UP AND SHIPPING US HOME WITH LOCKJAW. I HATE THEM I HATE THEM I HATE THEM.
BYE, MOM AND DAD...
*A.K.A. FANTASTIC FOUR #14. --TOM
SOMEWHERE, SO FAR AWAY IT ISN'T EVEN A TIME OR PLACE.
WHUMP!
LILINGGH!
OUCH! MY HEAD HURTS.
IT FEELS... IT FEELS ALMOST LIKE IT DID WHEN DAD GAVE ME THOSE MENTAL BLOCKS TO PREVENT ME FROM USING MY POWERS. LIKE MY BRAIN'S GONE BACK IN TIME.
:WHIMPER:
SMART BOY, BUT NOT TOO SMART FOR YOUR OWN GOOD. UNLIKE YOUR PRECOCIOUS LITTLE SISTER.
WHERE ARE WE?
YOU'RE NOT ANYWHERE, BOY. I'VE HALTED YOU MID-TELEPORT. TRAPPED LIKE A FLY IN AMBER UNTIL I DECIDE TO RELEASE YOU BACK INTO THE TIMESTREAM.
DON'T WORRY. TIME HAS NO MEANING HERE. YOU CAN'T STARVE. YOU CAN'T SUFFOCATE. AND YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.
NOT WITHOUT YOUR POWERS.
PLEASE, MY SISTER. SHE'S--
MERELY FROZEN BETWEEN YOCTO-SECONDS OF CONSCIOUSNESS. MY CLOYING YOUNGER SELF WILL BE PERFECTLY FINE.
YOUR... WHAT?
MY YOUNGER SELF. THE YOUNGER SELF I'VE WAITED HALF A LIFETIME TO PREVENT.

4 LATVERIA.
SO, WATCHER. HERE TO WATCH ME DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR ONCE AND FOR ALL?
SOULLESS TYRANTS ARE WITH US ALWAYS, COMMON AS SAND UPON A SHORE.
I COME TO WITNESS THAT WHICH MAY WELL SHAKE THE FIRMAMENT ITSELF.
DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S HERE FOR THE CREATION OF THE ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR!
UNHAND ME, YOU CLOD!
IF YOU WON'T MERGE WILLINGLY, I'LL FORCE THE MERGER MYSELF!
MY MASTERY OF TIME, ANNIHILUS' MASTERY OF DIMENSIONALITY, LATENT TRACES OF SUPREME POWER DOOM HAS OBTAINED IN THE PAST, I HEREBY JOIN TOGETH--

WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHELP! DID YOU THINK A NOSE-WET STRIPLING LIKE YOURSELF COULD POSSIBLY SUBSUME DOOM'S VERY CONCEPT OF SELF?
YOU THOUGHT TO ENTRAP DOOM IN THIS MERGED FORM WHILE YOU CONTROLLED ITS PERSONA AND ITS POWER.
BUT NO ONE CONTROLS DOOM, NO ONE!
FOR I AM DOOM!
AND NO ONE BUT DOOM SHALL EVER WIELD POWER OMNIPOTENT!

MY FIRST ACT OF OMNIPOTENCY WILL BE TO FOREVER RID MYSELF OF THIS YAMMERING INVISIBLE GREEK CHORUS OF FRAUDULENT DOOMS!
AAARRRGGH!
THOOM
NEXT. CHILDREN'S HOUR IS OVER FOR YOU, MY DEAR KIDDY KANG, AND FOR YOUR LITTLE LARVA HATCHLING ANNIHILUS, TOO.
≠TCHICK!≠ C-CAN'T--
≠UHHHH!≠ THE PAIN! THE PAIN!
PREDICTABLE.
ZRRAK
THINK YOURSELF SOMEHOW INVIOLATE, VOYEUR?
IT IS DOOM AGAINST THE UNIVERSE ITSELF AND THERE ARE NO NEUTRALS!
MMMMURGE!
WHO'S COMMON DIRT NOW, WATCHER? AND WHO IS THE ONE SHAKING THE FIRMAMENTS?
BUT ENOUGH OF THIS. TIME TO TEND TO LANG AND--
BEHIND ME--!

SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR NEW POWERS, DOOM!
TIME TO DRAIN THE SWAMP!
"TIME TO DRAIN THE SWAMP"? WE REALLY NEED TO WORK ON YOUR BATTLE REPARTEE, GIRLFRIEND.
PRESUMPTUOUS INSECTS! YOU SEEK TO RESTRAIN A GOD?
NOW, DARLA, NOW!
SLAK!
CLAMP
NOOOOOO!
D-DOOM S-S-STILL LIVES.
AND POWER OMNIPOTENT IS MINE AGAIN, IF I BUT REACH THAT DEVICE.
FWO
OSH!

TO BE CONCLUDED IN
THE SMACKDOWN OF THE CENTURY:
"FOR ALL WE HAVE AND ARE."

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

Had a visiting dignitary to the Marvel offices the other day—Ramones drummer Marky Ramone is a huge FANTASTIC FOUR fan of many years, and stopped by while in the city for a show to tour the offices and see what was happening with our cosmic-powered quartet!

So play us in, Marky, and we'll go to your letters!

Hello, folks!

I loved issue #9! Dr. Doom has been my favorite villain (very nearly my favorite character) since I began collecting comics in 1978. And this is one of the best Doom stories! We get a new wrinkle in Doom's origin, which is the sort of thing that normally bugs me, but this one doesn't feel continuity-threatening (I'm a big continuity buff). Victor knew he was going to be Dr. Doom before he even used the machine? Weird. And cool.

Character-driven stories are generally my favorite. This issue excelled in that area. It added a layer to Doom's megalomania that makes him more impressive than ever. The involvement of Ben Grimm in Doom's origin and subsequent agonizing over his culpability makes him more... human (ironically?). Reed's unwavering support of Ben reminds us why these two very different people have been the best of friends all these years.

Stories like this are why I've liked the Fantastic Four so much all these years. Excellent work, folks. And until Willie Lumpkin learns that he caused the creation of Dr. Doom, make mine Marvel!

PMM Scott D. Randel
Everett, WA

4 4 4 4

Hello Tom and Lauren,

The era of Hickman is one that I was very sad to see come to an end. But his run on FANTASTIC FOUR and FF will never be forgotten. Now on to the future.

FF under Fraction and Allred is a pure delight. This incarnation of FF is simply put, engrossing. Fraction's writing is perfect for this title and Allred's art just captivates me in a way that I can't remember another artist doing. I love the art and cannot wait for the next issue. Please do whatever is necessary to keep him on this title. Laura Allred's coloring just explodes off the page. It enhances the stellar artwork. This has become one of my must buy books and along with FANTASTIC FOUR is a treat for me each and every month.

And what is going on between Scott and Darla? Does Scott have feeling for her that are one sided? After the loss of his daughter I really hope he is not going to get hurt. And please keep the fan page for both titles separate. I am a longtime fan of the Fantastic Four and Marvel in general and it takes a special book to get me to write in. I'm sure many others feel the same and it gives the fans a better chance of seeing their letters in print. Having a letter in either magazine is an honor for many of us.

Oliver Ortiz
Brooklyn, NY

Would that we had the time to generate separate Fan Pages for both FANTASTIC FOUR and FF, Oliver. But we're inevitably struggling just to get this one measly page pulled together by press time. Still, even one Fan Page shared between the two sister titles is better than what a lot of other books these days manage—so glass half full!

OH MY GOD.

I have been loving FF since the first issue, the writing is snappy and fun, and the art is just FANTASTIC! (pardon the pun). As a trans* person myself, I was so excited with Tong's reveal, as well as her family's responses to it, and all in all, I am so glad I picked up this top-notch book.

To be honest, most of the reason I picked it up was for Scott Lang - I have a deep love for him that stems from falling in love with Cassie when I first read YOUNG AVENGERS. My heart's ached for him through the memories of Cassie that have been brought up, and when I read issue #7 I grinned so widely because it seemed like he was really starting to work through his grief. AND THEN CAME THE REVEAL AT THE END OF ISSUE #8!

I don't know how Scott will react, but I know how I did: a shriek and tearing up, because it's NATE. Not Kang the Conqueror, not yet, but NATE. I never thought he was anyone we'd see again, and even though I know he's going to break my heart (again!), I'm so excited to see him in a title with Scott. This can only end in tears, and I look forward to every second! Thank you guys so much for everything.

Mat Newson
Ithaca, NY

4 4 4 4

Dear Matt and Fantastic Team,

Please give us more issues like FANTASTIC FOUR #8. The art and storytelling were top notch. While we enjoyed parts of Mr. Hickman's run, overall we thought the story telling overly complex and he did little to develop Ben as a character. Keep it simple and keep the focus on Ben. Ben is the reason we read this comic (Just don't tell him we said so).

The Yancy Street Gang

We won't say a word! Thanks!

Just finished FF #8 and want to say THANK YOU! It's no secret that longtime Marvel readers such as myself often feel left out in the cold as the comics industry changes.

That said, I appreciate a book like FF that's just plain fun, like many I grew up with. The Medusa/She-Hulk personality conflict was historical! Darla Deering being giving the "Thing Rings" was a riot. Most likely only readers from my generation will know the rings originate from a short lived late '70s cartoon show. Thanks for the clear acknowledgement that we're still here.

Mike Parker
Waldwick, NJ

Mike makes reference to the very strange Fred and Barney Meet The Thing animated series from 1979, in which a teenaged Benjy Grimm would become the Thing by bringing his twin rings together. Curious readers with a strong constitution can likely track down clips out on the Internet. Yes, believe it or not, this was an actual thing! Who says cartoons haven't gotten better over the years?

Fraction and friends,

Me sitting down to read FF #8.

Hmmm. This is an interesting cover... but why the cheesy line?...wait a minute... *crinkle* No way... *crinkle* and if I just... *crinkle* *crinkle*. Awesome.

In short: my FF #8 will never again be graded above "poor condition" but my respect for Mike Allred and his "mad" skills continues to soar.

Write on,
Tom Mervenne
Richmond, VA

Tom's talking about the hidden "fold-in" cover we ran on FF #8! If you didn't notice at the time, pull it out of your back issue boxes and see for yourself!

Dear Tom and Jake,

In FF #15, the FF kids are controlling robots like a video game. Anyone who's ever played online game is familiar with "lag" and how even a lag of milliseconds makes gaming a nightmare. Controlling robots from the Moon would be Lag Fest City.

Even at the speed of light, the distance between the Earth and the Blue Area of the Moon (250,000 miles), means that even at the speed of light electronic signals take 2.7 seconds to reach earth (and 5.4 seconds for a round-trip signal). Clearly a problem.

In the time-honored Marvel tradition of the No-Prize -- spotting an error in a story and then proposing a solution -- here's how Scott Lang beat signal lag:

Those blue flameglobes are moveable instantaneous portals from the Moon to Earth. Scott just set up a stationary flameglobe on Earth outside Latveria and ran signal cables from the Moon through the flameglobe to a repeater broadcast station on the Earth, totally eliminating the Moon/Earth signal lag.

So how about it? No-Prize worthy?

Lee Allred, R.F.O, Q.N.S., K.O.F.
Oregon

It's a good explanation, Lee! But I'm afraid that it would be a violation of No-Prize protocol to award a writer a No-Prize for correcting an error in his own script—that's kinda what we pay you for, ya know! Also, in recent years, we've changed the rules governing No-Prizedom, awarding them only for Meritorious Service to the Cause of Marveldom. Which, by stepping into the fray when Matt Fraction became unable to complete his tour of duty, you have done. So, what th' hell, a shiny new digital No-Prize is transmitting itself to you even as we speak! Anything to help you come closer to completing your set of the Ranks of Marveldom! What are the Ranks of Marveldom, you ask? Cast a glance to the big yellow box at the bottom of this very page!

It's the big wrap-up next month, folks! So we'll see you there!

Tom B
11/11/13

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM :

R.F.O.	(Real Frantic One) — A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month.	K.O.F.	(Keeper Of the Flame) — One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.
T.T.B.	(Titanic True Believer) — A divinely-inspired 'No Prize' winner.	P.M.M.	(Permanent Marvelite Maximus) — Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
Q.N.S.	(Quite 'Nuff Sayer) — A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.	F.F.F.	(Fearless Front-Facer) — An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can e-mail it to us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!

FANTASTIC FOUR
#16
FRACTION | KESEL | IENCO

FF
#16
FRACTION | ALLRED | ALLRED

MARVEL

MATT FRACTION
LEE ALLRED
MICHAEL ALLRED
LAURA ALLRED

016

THE FUTURE FOUNDATION

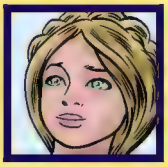
While away on their cosmic family vacation, the Fantastic Four left the young and brilliant children of the Future Foundation in the care of Ant-Man, Darla Deering, Medusa and She-Hulk. Soon after the Fantastic Four left, a scarred, traumatized older John Storm returned, claiming the team had all died at the hand of Doom, the Annihilating Conqueror!

In Latveria, Doom used the Cosmic Power Siphon to steal Annihilus and Kid Immortus's powers. Doom also kidnapped Alex Power's parents to blackmail Alex into killing old John Storm and delivering the Multilinear Chronostellar Manifold to him. Ant-Man discovered his plan and used the Manifold to launch a sneak attack on Doom from Uatu The Watcher's home on the blue area of the moon.

The attack was a success. Doom's defenses were destroyed, his stolen powers dispersed, and now it's all come down to this: Ant-Man versus Doom.

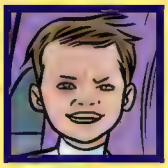
ALEX POWER

AHURA

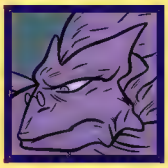

LUNA

LEECH

ARTIE MADDICKS


BENTLEY-23

ADOLF IMPOSSIBLE


DRAGON MAN

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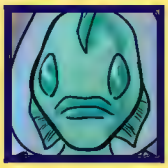
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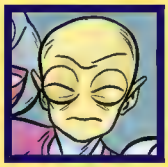
TONG

FOR ALL WE HAVE AND ARE

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all we have and are

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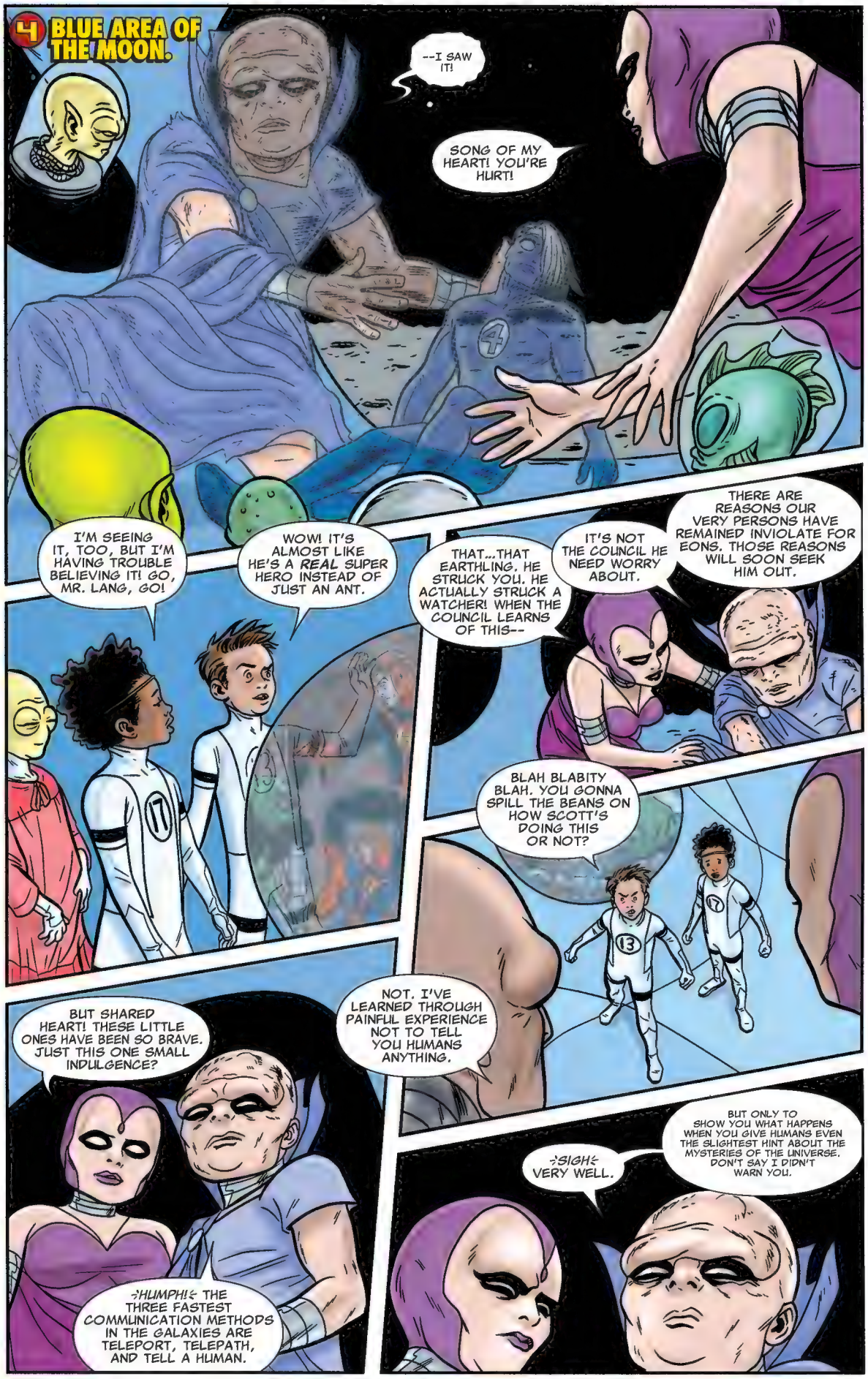
WE WILL FIGHT DOOM ON EVERY FRONT.
PHYSICALLY. MENTALLY. EMOTIONALLY.
MORALLY.
WE WILL STRIP DOOM OF HIS DEFENSES ONE BY ONE.
WE WILL STRIP DOOM OF HIS ARMIES.
OF HIS ALLIES.
OF HIS HOSTAGES.

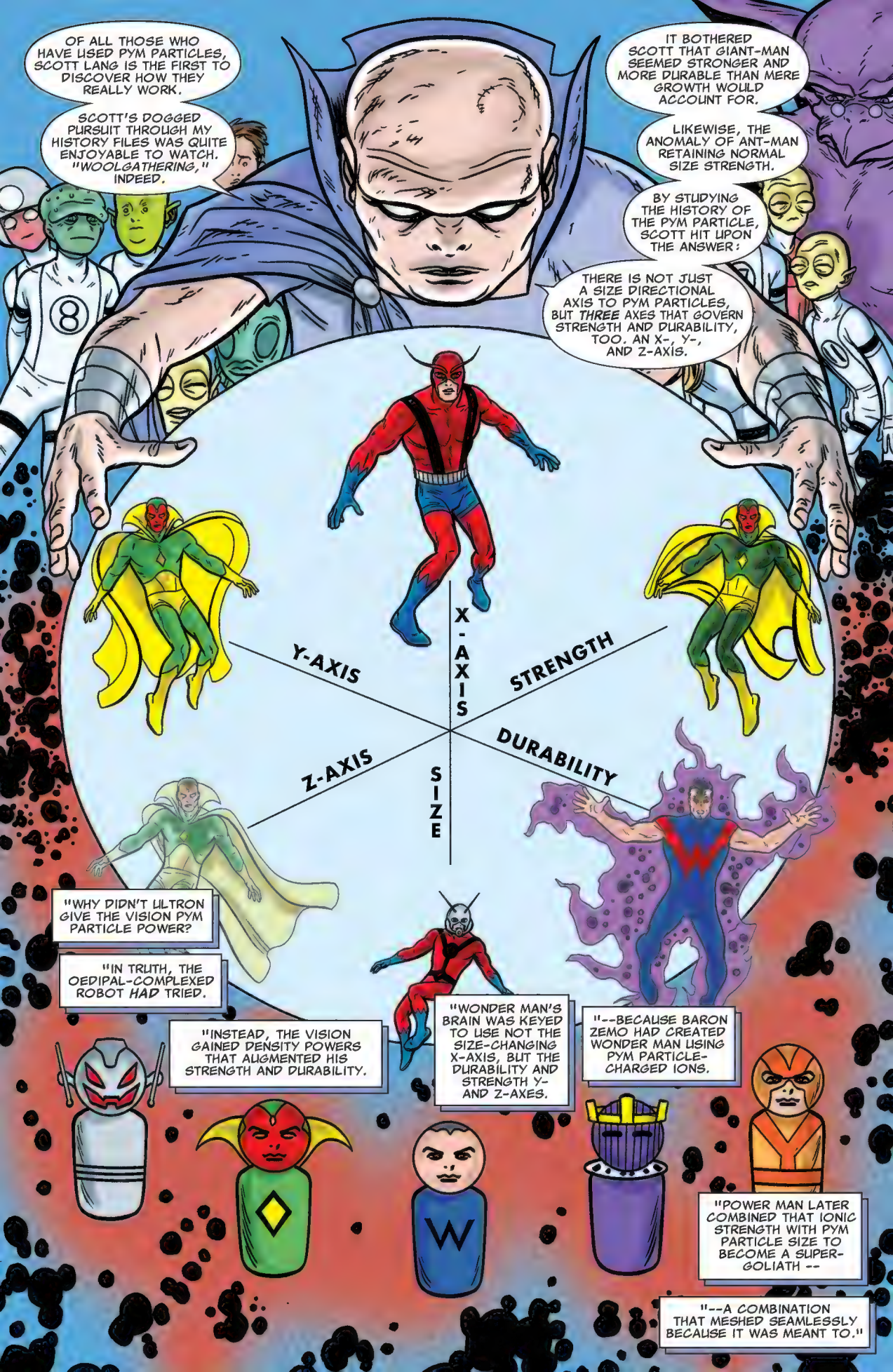
OF HIS MAGICKS.
OF HIS SCIENCES.
OF HIS POWER.
UNTIL ONLY VICTOR VON DOOM, THE MAN, STANDS BEFORE US.
AND THAT IS WHEN THE FIGHT TRULY BEGINS.
MY FIGHT.
YOUR PETTY LITTLE PLAN HAS FAILED, LANG.
DOOM STILL LIVES.

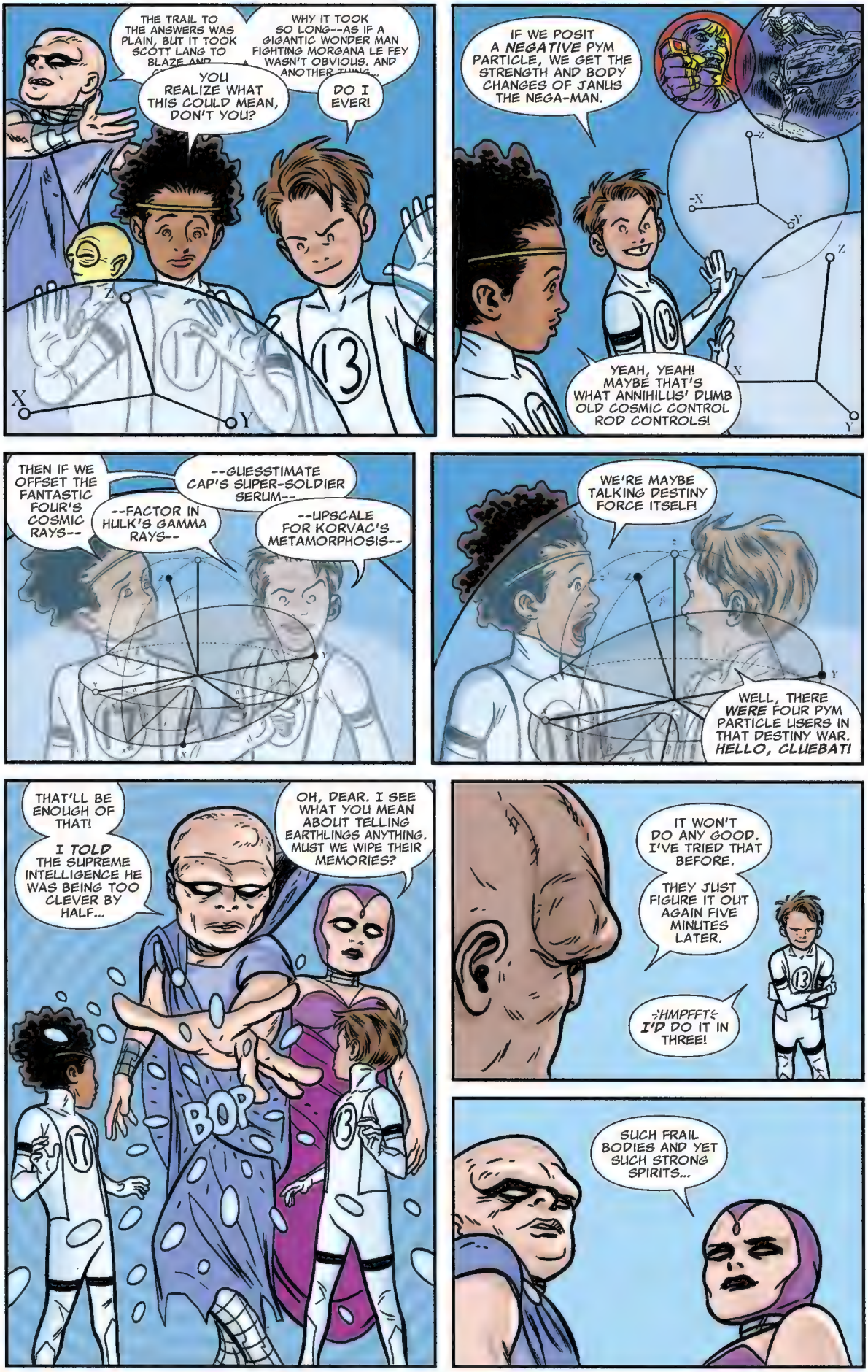
DOOM STILL TALKS IN THE THIRD-PERSON, TOO.
DRAGON MAN? I NEED RETRIEVAL ON THE LADIES, NOW.
INITIATING RETRIEVAL PROTOCOLS, SIR.
WE'VE GOT THEM, MR. LANG. THEIR MEDICAL TELEMETRIES ARE JUST FINE.
AN AMUSING TRICK, LANG.
...THREE... TWO...ONE...
EMERGENCY REPAIRS COMPLETE. ALL ARMOR FUNCTIONS NOMINAL.
I AM NOT WITHOUT MY OWN.
ZSSST
NOW STAND ASIDE, INSECT, AS DOOM RECLAIMS HIS POWER OMNIPOTENT BEFORE IT FADES AWAY.

NOW WHY WOULD I DO A SILLY THING LIKE THAT?
POP!
BECAUSE, FOOL, WITH THAT POWER I CAN BRING YOUR DEAD DAUGHTER BACK TO LIFE!
THIS FARCE OF A CONFLICT IS ALL ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER, ISN'T IT?
BRINGING CASSIE BACK IS JUST A BARGAINING CHIP TO YOU, ISN'T IT? YOU HAVE NO UNDERSTANDING OF LOVE OR SACRIFICE AT ALL, DOOM.
CASSIE GAVE HER LIFE TO KEEP ULTIMATE POWER OUT OF YOUR BLOOD-SOAKED HANDS.
YOU ACTUALLY THINK I'D SPIT ON HER SACRIFICE BY GIVING THAT KIND OF POWER BACK TO YOU NOW?
THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO PLAY OUT, DOOM.
YOU'RE GOING TO REMOVE YOUR ARMOR, AND THEN I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU TO WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE.
NO PYM PARTICLES. NO DOOM ARMOR. JUST YOU. JUST ME.
SO STRIP IT OFF, DOOM.

VHOOOSH!
IN YOUR OWN WORDS--
WHY WOULD I DO A SILLY THING LIKE THAT?
JUST REMEMBER, DOOM: I TRIED TO DO THIS THE EASY WAY.
IT'S--IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! YOU'RE JUST AN ANT-MAN!
AND EVERYONE KNOWS THE ANT CAN'T, RIGHT?
SKRAK!
KRAK!
ARRRGHH!
MY HANDS! YOU'RE CRUSHING THEM RIGHT THROUGH MY ARMOR!
HOW ARE YOU THIS POWERFUL? HOW?
RIGHT. LIKE I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN TO A SUPER VILLAIN.
I DIDN'T MISS IT. I SAW IT! I SAW THE MOMENT THE UNIVERSE CHANGED!

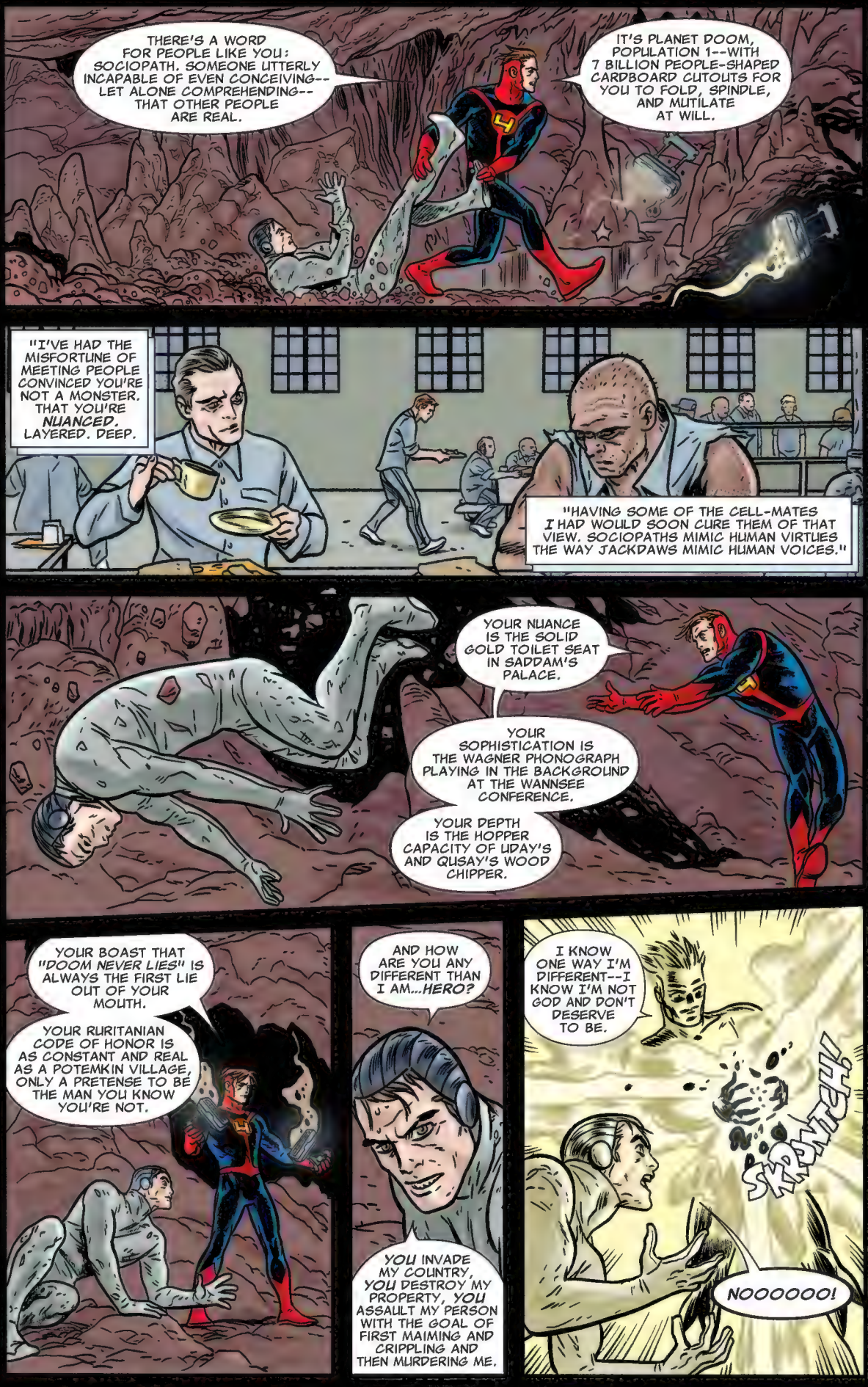

4 BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.
--I SAW IT!
SONG OF MY HEART! YOU'RE HURT!
I'M SEEING IT, TOO, BUT I'M HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING IT! GO, MR. LANG, GO!
WOW! IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S A REAL SUPER HERO INSTEAD OF JUST AN ANT.
THAT...THAT EARTHLING. HE STRUCK YOU. HE ACTUALLY STRUCK A WATCHER! WHEN THE COUNCIL LEARNS OF THIS--
IT'S NOT THE COUNCIL HE NEED WORRY ABOUT.
THERE ARE REASONS OUR VERY PERSONS HAVE REMAINED INVIOLATE FOR EONS. THOSE REASONS WILL SOON SEEK HIM OUT.
BLAH BLABITY BLAH. YOU GONNA SPILL THE BEANS ON HOW SCOTT'S DOING THIS OR NOT?
NOT. I'VE LEARNED THROUGH PAINFUL EXPERIENCE NOT TO TELL YOU HUMANS ANYTHING.
BUT SHARED HEART! THESE LITTLE ONES HAVE BEEN SO BRAVE. JUST THIS ONE SMALL INDULGENCE?
-HUMPH!- THE THREE FASTEST COMMUNICATION METHODS IN THE GALAXIES ARE TELEPORT, TELEPATH, AND TELL A HUMAN.
-SIGH- VERY WELL.
BUT ONLY TO SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE HUMANS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST HINT ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE. DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.

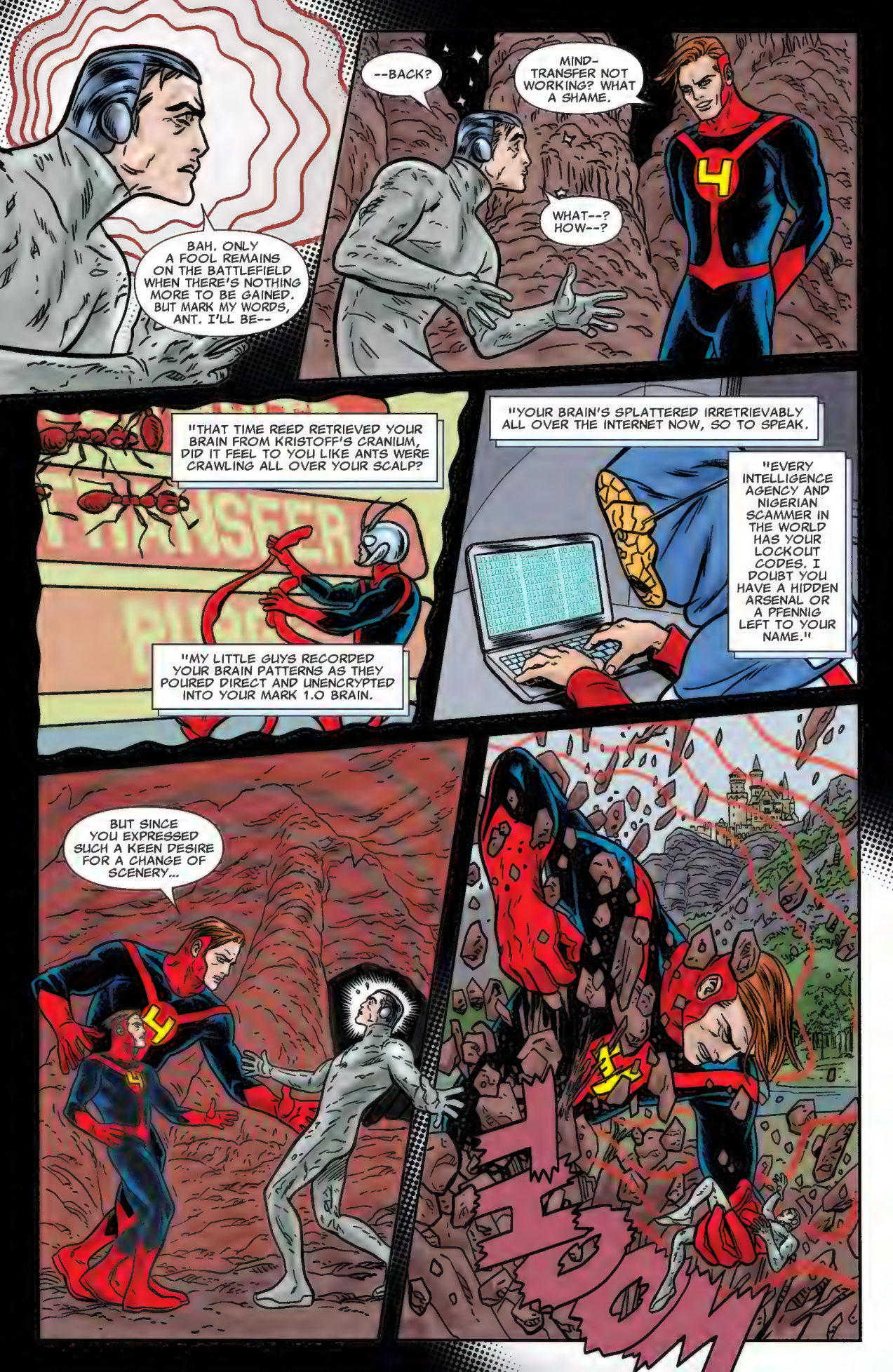

OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE USED PYM PARTICLES, SCOTT LANG IS THE FIRST TO DISCOVER HOW THEY REALLY WORK.
SCOTT'S DOGGED PURSUIT THROUGH MY HISTORY FILES WAS QUITE ENJOYABLE TO WATCH. "WOOLGATHERING," INDEED.
IT BOTHERED SCOTT THAT GIANT-MAN SEEMED STRONGER AND MORE DURABLE THAN MERE GROWTH WOULD ACCOUNT FOR.
LIKEWISE, THE ANOMALY OF ANT-MAN RETAINING NORMAL SIZE STRENGTH.
BY STUDYING THE HISTORY OF THE PYM PARTICLE, SCOTT HIT UPON THE ANSWER:
THERE IS NOT JUST A SIZE DIRECTIONAL AXIS TO PYM PARTICLES, BUT *THREE* AXES THAT GOVERN STRENGTH AND DURABILITY, TOO. AN X-, Y-, AND Z-AXIS.
X-AXIS
STRENGTH
Y-AXIS
DURABILITY
Z-AXIS
SIZE
"WHY DIDN'T ULTRON GIVE THE VISION PYM PARTICLE POWER?
"IN TRUTH, THE OEDIPAL-COMPLEXED ROBOT *HAD* TRIED.
"INSTEAD, THE VISION GAINED DENSITY POWERS THAT AUGMENTED HIS STRENGTH AND DURABILITY.
"WONDER MAN'S BRAIN WAS KEYED TO USE NOT THE SIZE-CHANGING X-AXIS, BUT THE DURABILITY AND STRENGTH Y- AND Z-AXES.
"--BECAUSE BARON ZEMO HAD CREATED WONDER MAN USING PYM PARTICLE-CHARGED IONS.
"POWER MAN LATER COMBINED THAT IONIC STRENGTH WITH PYM PARTICLE SIZE TO BECOME A SUPER-GOLIATH --
"--A COMBINATION THAT MESHED SEAMLESSLY BECAUSE IT WAS MEANT TO."

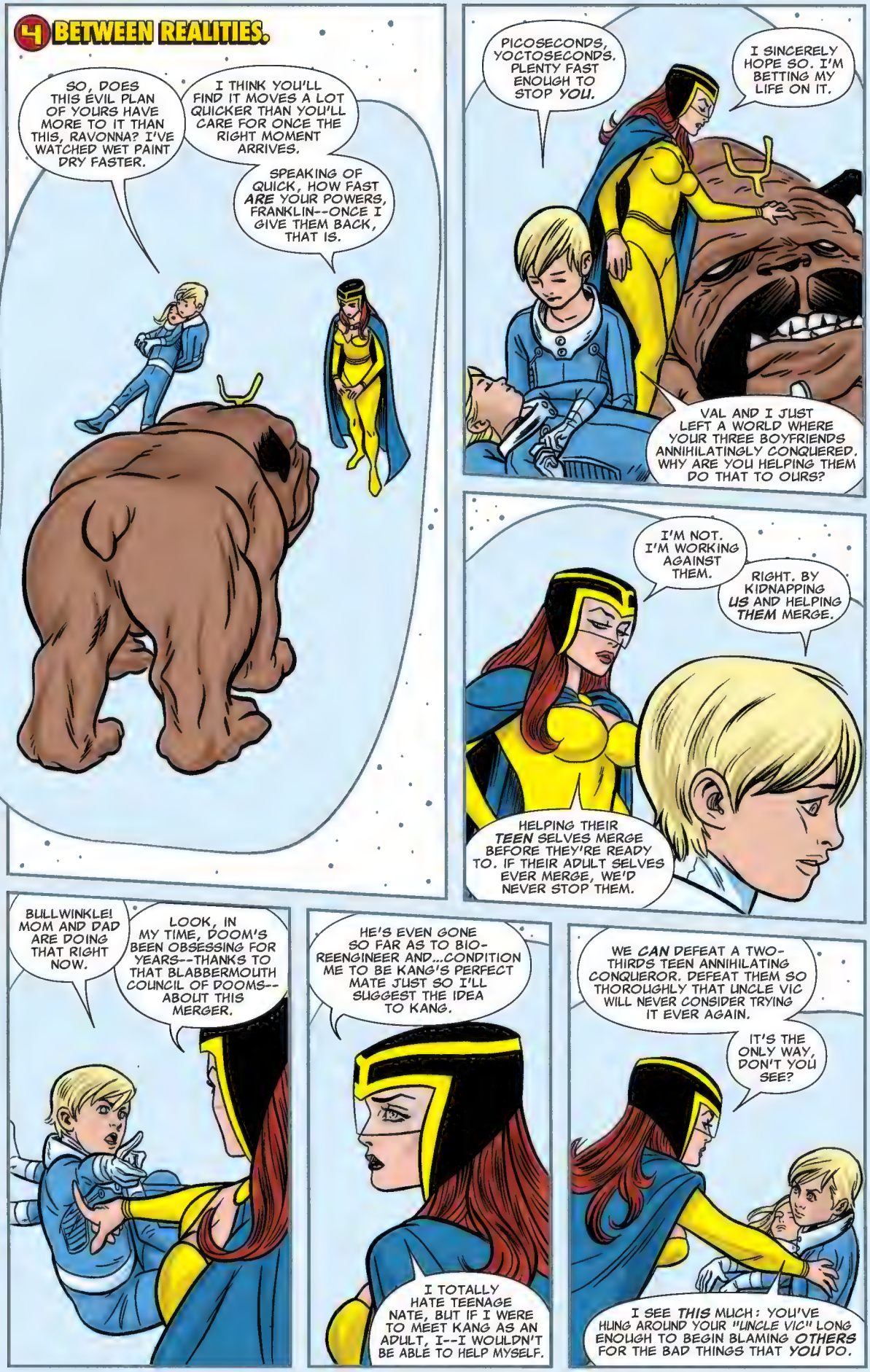

THE TRAIL TO THE ANSWERS WAS PLAIN, BUT IT TOOK SCOTT LANG TO BLAZE AND
WHY IT TOOK SO LONG--AS IF A GIGANTIC WONDER MAN FIGHTING MORGANA LE FEY WASN'T OBVIOUS, AND ANOTHER THING...
YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS COULD MEAN, DON'T YOU?
DO I EVER!
IF WE POSIT A NEGATIVE PYM PARTICLE, WE GET THE STRENGTH AND BODY CHANGES OF JANUS THE NEGA-MAN.
YEAH, YEAH! MAYBE THAT'S WHAT ANNIHILUS' DUMB OLD COSMIC CONTROL ROD CONTROLS!
THEN IF WE OFFSET THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S COSMIC RAYS--
--GUESSTIMATE CAP'S SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM--
--FACTOR IN HULK'S GAMMA RAYS--
--UPSCALE FOR KORVAC'S METAMORPHOSIS--
WE'RE MAYBE TALKING DESTINY FORCE ITSELF!
WELL, THERE WERE FOUR PYM PARTICLE USERS IN THAT DESTINY WAR. HELLO, CLUEBAT!
THAT'LL BE ENOUGH OF THAT!
I TOLD THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE HE WAS BEING TOO CLEVER BY HALF...
OH, DEAR. I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN ABOUT TELLING EARTHLINGS ANYTHING. MUST WE WIPE THEIR MEMORIES?
BOP
IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD. I'VE TRIED THAT BEFORE.
THEY JUST FIGURE IT OUT AGAIN FIVE MINUTES LATER.
:HMPFFT: I'D DO IT IN THREE!
SUCH FRAIL BODIES AND YET SUCH STRONG SPIRITS...

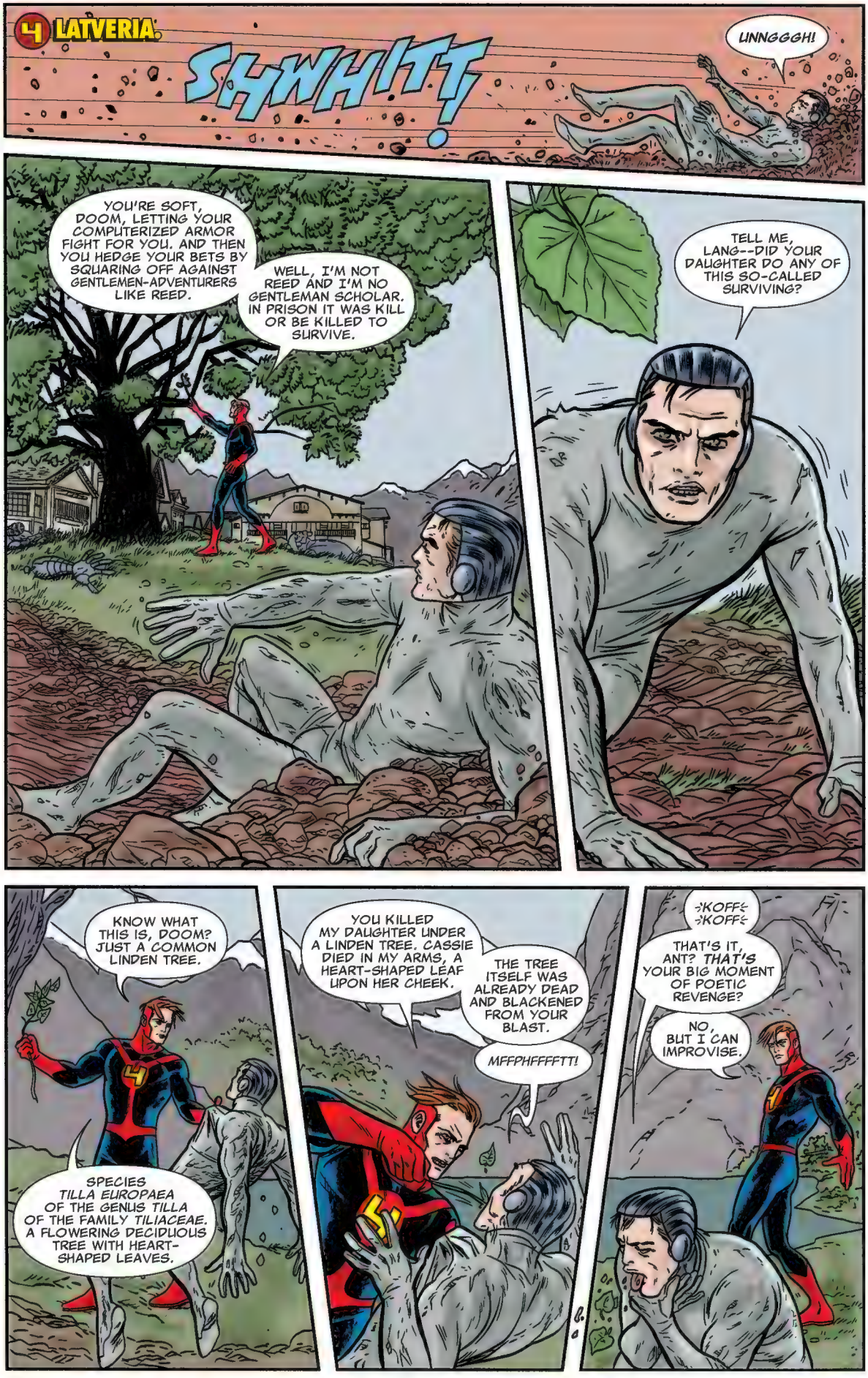
"...TRAILING CLOUDS OF GLORY EVEN AS THEY FIGHT AND STRUGGLE FOR WHAT THEY HOLD DEAR."
I GUESS IF YOU WANT YOUR ARMOR, YOU CAN KEEP YOUR ARMOR.
KERSMAK
UNGHHHG!
AT LEAST UNTIL I PEEL IT OFF OF YOU PIECE--
--BY PIECE--
--BY PIECE.
4 LATVERIA. DEEP UNDER CASTLE DOOM.
NOT THAT THERE WAS ANYONE INSIDE THAT EMPTY SUIT OF ARMOR.
OH, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SEVENTY OR EIGHTY KILOGRAMS OF BREATHING, BLEEDING FLESH HOUSED INSIDE--
--BUT CERTAINLY NOTHING I'D CALL HUMAN. YOU'D HAVE TO HAVE A CONSCIENCE, A SOUL TO BE A HUMAN BEING.
AND NOW, I'VE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST.
NO! NOT THE MASK!

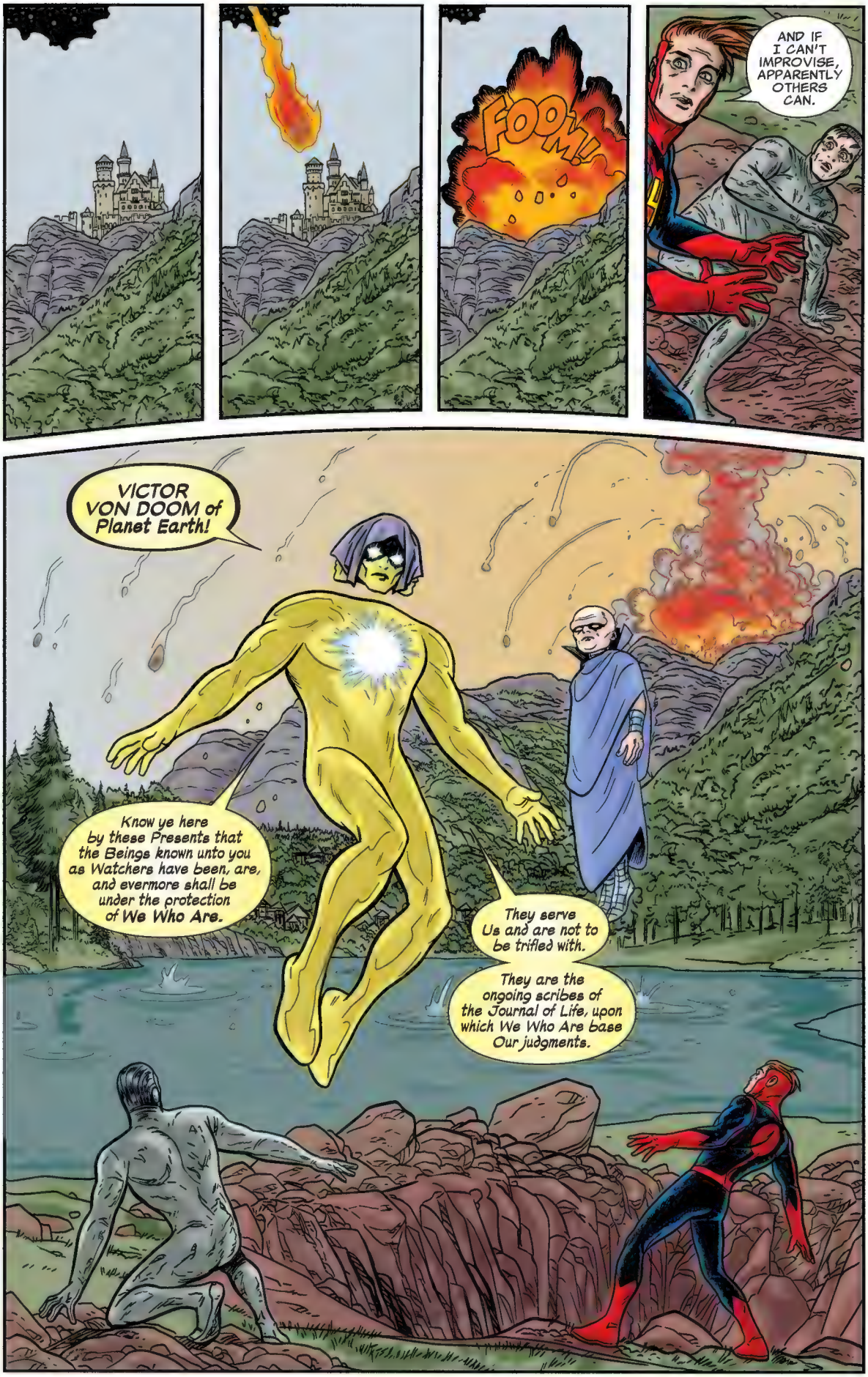
NO!
LOOKY, LOOKY! IMAGINE THAT. NO SCARS AT ALL.
YOU THINK THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW YOU FIX YOUR FACE THE INSTANT YOU STEAL ULTIMATE POWER? THE BEYONDER, THE LIFE FORCE--
ALL THOSE FIXED FACES, ALL THOSE MIND TRANSFERS INTO NEW BODIES AND NEW FACES.
AND YET EVERY SINGLE TIME, YOU SOMEHOW END UP SCARRED AGAIN AFTERWARDS.
BU
BROOM!
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK, DOOM? YOU SCAR YOUR FACE *YOURSELF.*
FOR A MAN LIKE YOU, IT'S MUCH EASIER INFLICTING A FAKE IMPERFECTION ON YOURSELF THAN ADMITTING TO HAVING A REAL ONE.
IT'S NOT THE UGLY DEAD SCAR TISSUE OF YOUR FACE THAT ISOLATES YOU FROM HUMANITY, DOOM. IT'S THE UGLY DEAD SCAR TISSUE OF YOUR *SOUL.*
AURRRGGGGH!

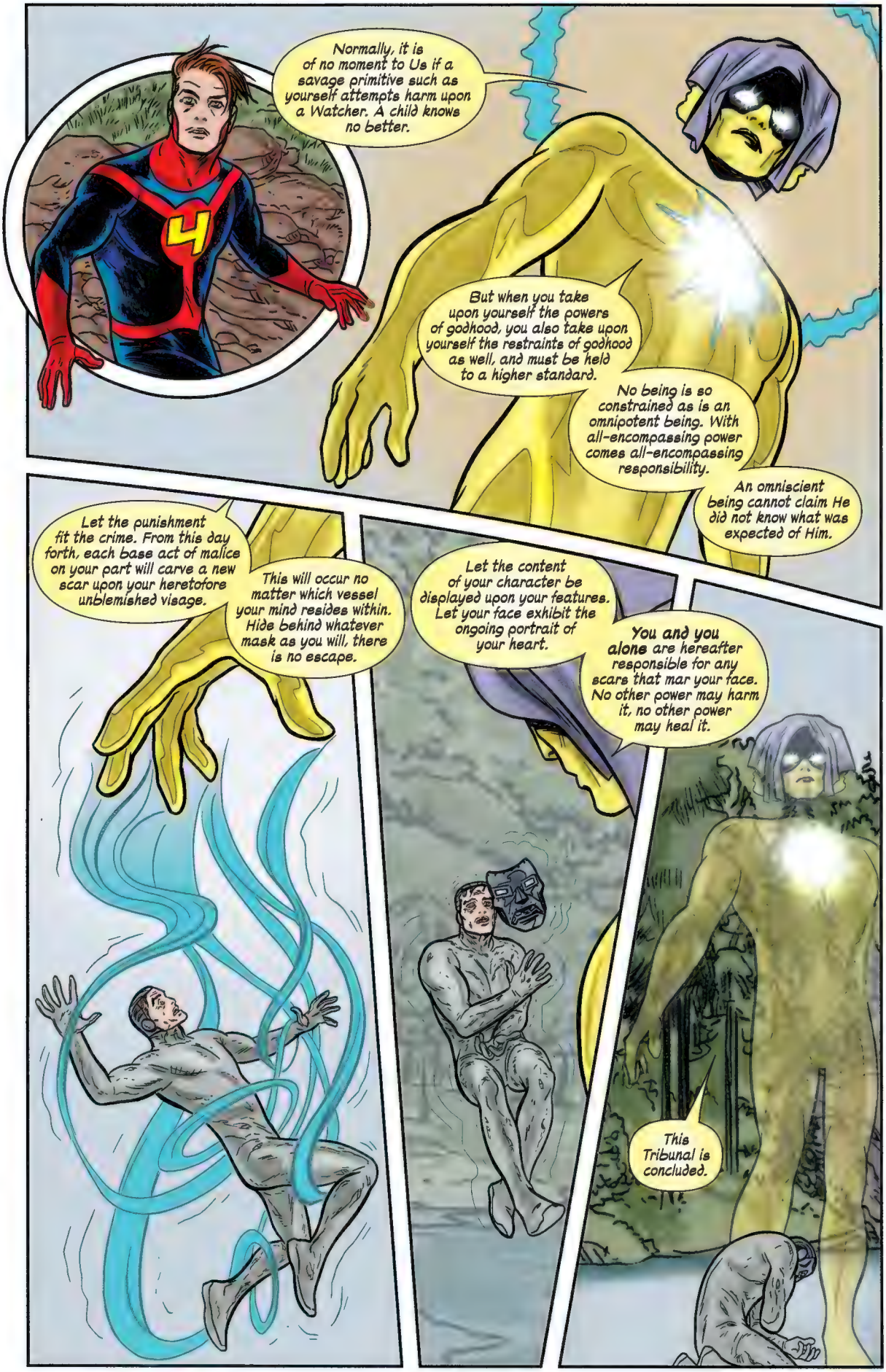

THERE'S A WORD FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU: SOCIOPATH. SOMEONE UTTERLY INCAPABLE OF EVEN CONCEIVING--LET ALONE COMPREHENDING--THAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE REAL.
IT'S PLANET DOOM, POPULATION 1--WITH 7 BILLION PEOPLE-SHAPED CARDBOARD CUTOUTS FOR YOU TO FOLD, SPINDLE, AND MUTILATE AT WILL.
"I'VE HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF MEETING PEOPLE CONVINCED YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER. THAT YOU'RE *NUANCED*. LAYERED. DEEP.
"HAVING SOME OF THE CELL-MATES I HAD WOULD SOON CURE THEM OF THAT VIEW. SOCIOPATHS MIMIC HUMAN VIRTUES THE WAY JACKDAWS MIMIC HUMAN VOICES."
YOUR NUANCE IS THE SOLID GOLD TOILET SEAT IN SADDAM'S PALACE.
YOUR SOPHISTICATION IS THE WAGNER PHONOGRAPH PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND AT THE WANNSEE CONFERENCE.
YOUR DEPTH IS THE HOPPER CAPACITY OF UDAY'S AND QUSAY'S WOOD CHIPPER.
YOUR BOAST THAT "*DOOM NEVER LIES*" IS ALWAYS THE FIRST LIE OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.
YOUR PURITANIAN CODE OF HONOR IS AS CONSTANT AND REAL AS A POTEMKIN VILLAGE, ONLY A PRETENSE TO BE THE MAN YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT.
AND HOW ARE YOU ANY DIFFERENT THAN I AM...*HERO?*
YOU INVADE MY COUNTRY, *YOU* DESTROY MY PROPERTY, *YOU* ASSAULT MY PERSON WITH THE GOAL OF FIRST MAIMING AND CRIPPLING AND THEN MURDERING ME.
I KNOW ONE WAY I'M DIFFERENT--I KNOW I'M NOT GOD AND DON'T DESERVE TO BE.
SKRNTCH!
NOOOOOO!


BAH. ONLY A FOOL REMAINS ON THE BATTLEFIELD WHEN THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO BE GAINED. BUT MARK MY WORDS, ANT. I'LL BE--
--BACK?
MIND-TRANSFER NOT WORKING? WHAT A SHAME.
WHAT--? HOW--?
"THAT TIME REED RETRIEVED YOUR BRAIN FROM KRISTOFF'S CRANIUM, DID IT FEEL TO YOU LIKE ANTS WERE CRAWLING ALL OVER YOUR SCALP?
"MY LITTLE GUYS RECORDED YOUR BRAIN PATTERNS AS THEY POURED DIRECT AND UNENCRYPTED INTO YOUR MARK 1.0 BRAIN.
"YOUR BRAIN'S SPLATTERED IRRETRIEVABLY ALL OVER THE INTERNET NOW, SO TO SPEAK.
"EVERY INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND NIGERIAN SCAMMER IN THE WORLD HAS YOUR LOCKOUT CODES. I DOUBT YOU HAVE A HIDDEN ARSENAL OR A PFENNIG LEFT TO YOUR NAME."
BUT SINCE YOU EXPRESSED SUCH A KEEN DESIRE FOR A CHANGE OF SCENERY...
KABOOM


4 BETWEEN REALITIES.
SO, DOES THIS EVIL PLAN OF YOURS HAVE MORE TO IT THAN THIS, RAVONNA? I'VE WATCHED WET PAINT DRY FASTER.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT MOVES A LOT QUICKER THAN YOU'LL CARE FOR ONCE THE RIGHT MOMENT ARRIVES.
SPEAKING OF QUICK, HOW FAST ARE YOUR POWERS, FRANKLIN--ONCE I GIVE THEM BACK, THAT IS.
PICOSECONDS, YOCTOSECONDS. PLENTY FAST ENOUGH TO STOP YOU.
I SINCERELY HOPE SO. I'M BETTING MY LIFE ON IT.
VAL AND I JUST LEFT A WORLD WHERE YOUR THREE BOYFRIENDS ANNIHILATINGLY CONQUERED. WHY ARE YOU HELPING THEM DO THAT TO OURS?
I'M NOT. I'M WORKING AGAINST THEM.
RIGHT. BY KIDNAPPING US AND HELPING THEM MERGE.
HELPING THEIR TEEN SELVES MERGE BEFORE THEY'RE READY TO. IF THEIR ADULT SELVES EVER MERGE, WE'D NEVER STOP THEM.
BULLWINKLE! MOM AND DAD ARE DOING THAT RIGHT NOW.
LOOK, IN MY TIME, DOOM'S BEEN OBSESSING FOR YEARS--THANKS TO THAT BLABBERMOUTH COUNCIL OF DOOMS--ABOUT THIS MERGER.
HE'S EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO BIO-REENGINEER AND...CONDITION ME TO BE KANG'S PERFECT MATE JUST SO I'LL SUGGEST THE IDEA TO KANG.
I TOTALLY HATE TEENAGE NATE, BUT IF I WERE TO MEET KANG AS AN ADULT, I--I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HELP MYSELF.
WE CAN DEFEAT A TWO-THIRDS TEEN ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR. DEFEAT THEM SO THOROUGHLY THAT UNCLE VIC WILL NEVER CONSIDER TRYING IT EVER AGAIN.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY, DON'T YOU SEE?
I SEE THIS MUCH: YOU'VE HUNG AROUND YOUR "UNCLE VIC" LONG ENOUGH TO BEGIN BLAMING OTHERS FOR THE BAD THINGS THAT YOU DO.

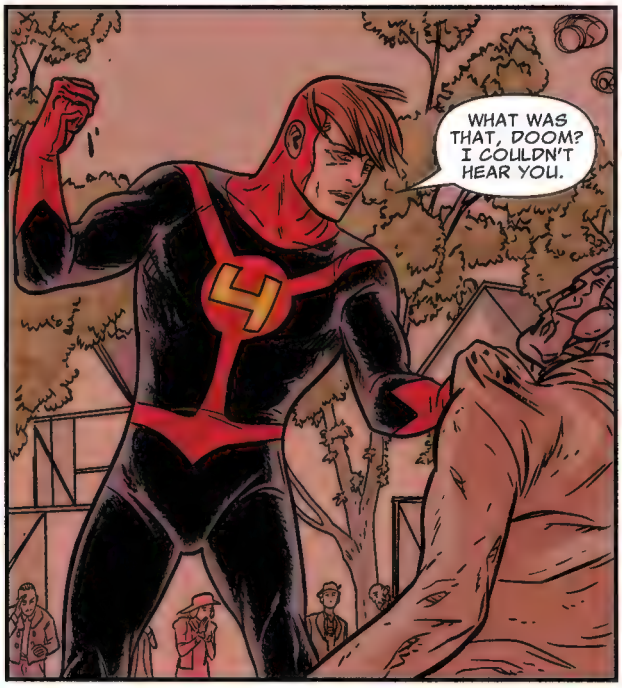

4 LATVERIA.
SHWHITT
UNNGGGH!
YOU'RE SOFT, DOOM, LETTING YOUR COMPUTERIZED ARMOR FIGHT FOR YOU. AND THEN YOU HEDGE YOUR BETS BY SQUARING OFF AGAINST GENTLEMEN-ADVENTURERS LIKE REED.
WELL, I'M NOT REED AND I'M NO GENTLEMAN SCHOLAR. IN PRISON IT WAS KILL OR BE KILLED TO SURVIVE.
TELL ME, LANG--DID YOUR DAUGHTER DO ANY OF THIS SO-CALLED SURVIVING?
KNOW WHAT THIS IS, DOOM? JUST A COMMON LINDEN TREE.
SPECIES TILLA EUROPAEA OF THE GENUS TILLA OF THE FAMILY TILIACEAE. A FLOWERING DECIDUOUS TREE WITH HEART-SHAPED LEAVES.
YOU KILLED MY DAUGHTER UNDER A LINDEN TREE. CASSIE DIED IN MY ARMS, A HEART-SHAPED LEAF UPON HER CHEEK.
THE TREE ITSELF WAS ALREADY DEAD AND BLACKENED FROM YOUR BLAST.
MFFPHFFFFTT!
:KOFF: :KOFF:
THAT'S IT, ANT? THAT'S YOUR BIG MOMENT OF POETIC REVENGE?
NO, BUT I CAN IMPROVISE.


FOOM!
AND IF I CAN'T IMPROVISE, APPARENTLY OTHERS CAN.
VICTOR VON DOOM of Planet Earth!
Know ye here by these Presents that the Beings known unto you as Watchers have been, are, and evermore shall be under the protection of We Who Are.
They serve Us and are not to be trifled with.
They are the ongoing scribes of the Journal of Life, upon which We Who Are base Our judgments.


Normally, it is of no moment to Us if a savage primitive such as yourself attempts harm upon a Watcher. A child knows no better.
But when you take upon yourself the powers of godhood, you also take upon yourself the restraints of godhood as well, and must be held to a higher standard.
No being is so constrained as is an omnipotent being. With all-encompassing power comes all-encompassing responsibility.
An omniscient being cannot claim He did not know what was expected of Him.
Let the punishment fit the crime. From this day forth, each base act of malice on your part will carve a new scar upon your heretofore unblemished visage.
This will occur no matter which vessel your mind resides within. Hide behind whatever mask as you will, there is no escape.
Let the content of your character be displayed upon your features. Let your face exhibit the ongoing portrait of your heart.
You and you alone are hereafter responsible for any scars that mar your face. No other power may harm it, no other power may heal it.
This Tribunal is concluded.

BAH! IT MEANS NOTHING. THE MUTTERING OF SMOKE AND DISAPPEARING SHADOWS.
NO, WHAT IS SMOKE AND SHADOWS, DOOM, IS THE BELIEF THAT OTHERS ON THE PROSCENIUM OF LIFE ARE MERE STAGE DRESSING.
HUMAN BEINGS LEARN THIS LESSON EARLY IN CHILDHOOD. CREATURES LIKE YOU DO NOT.
NO, THOSE LIKE YOU LEARN IT ONLY AS THEY STARE AT THEIR OWN MORTALITY. MUSSOLINI AT THE LAMP POST. HUSSEIN DOWN HIS SPIDER HOLE. CEAUSESCU UP AGAINST THE WALL.
I'VE SEEN THAT MOMENT IN THE EYES OF MEN LED SHUFFLING DOWN THAT FINAL CORRIDOR TOWARDS THE GAS CHAMBER.
BEGGING, PLEADING, REALIZING FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT OTHERS CAN TOY WITH THEM AS THEY HAVE TOYED WITH OTHERS. HURT THEM AS THEY'VE HURT OTHERS.
BEINGS LIKE THE *LIVING TRIBUNAL*...
HOW DOES IT FEEL, VICTOR, TO HAVE TO ADMIT THERE'S AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE OUTSIDE THE PUNY CONFINES OF YOUR MIND, ONE YOU CAN'T BEND TO YOURS?
YOUR SO-CALLED UNIVERSE IS A PUNY THING. I STILL STAND, DO I NOT? I ADMIT NOTHING.
NO, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D ADMIT IT AT THAT. IT'S ALL BEEN THEORETICAL UP TO THIS POINT. YOU HAVEN'T STARED AT THE BRINK OF DEATH YET, FOR THE LESSON TO SOAK IN.
UATU, SHUT OFF THE MONITOR FEEDS. I DON'T WANT TO LET THE CHILDREN SEE WHAT MUST COME NEXT.
SCOTT, I--
THINGS THAT MUST BE DONE, MUST BE DONE-- NO MATTER HOW STOMACH-TURNING.
DOOM, I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO BEAT YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE. YOU'D BETTER PRAY I'M A GOOD JUDGE OF DISTANCE.

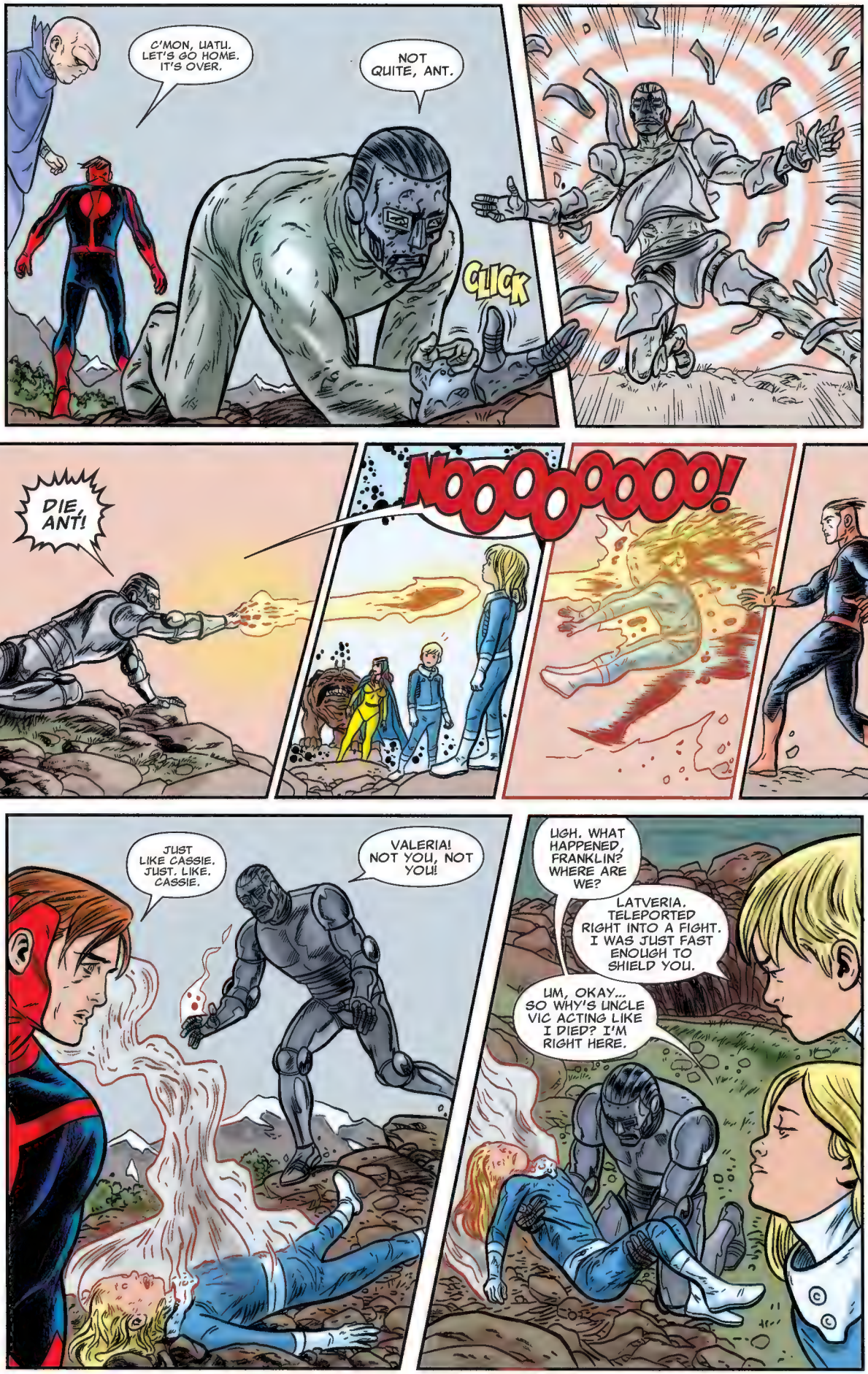
NA! NANT!!


WHAT WAS THAT, DOOM? I COULDN'T HEAR YOU.

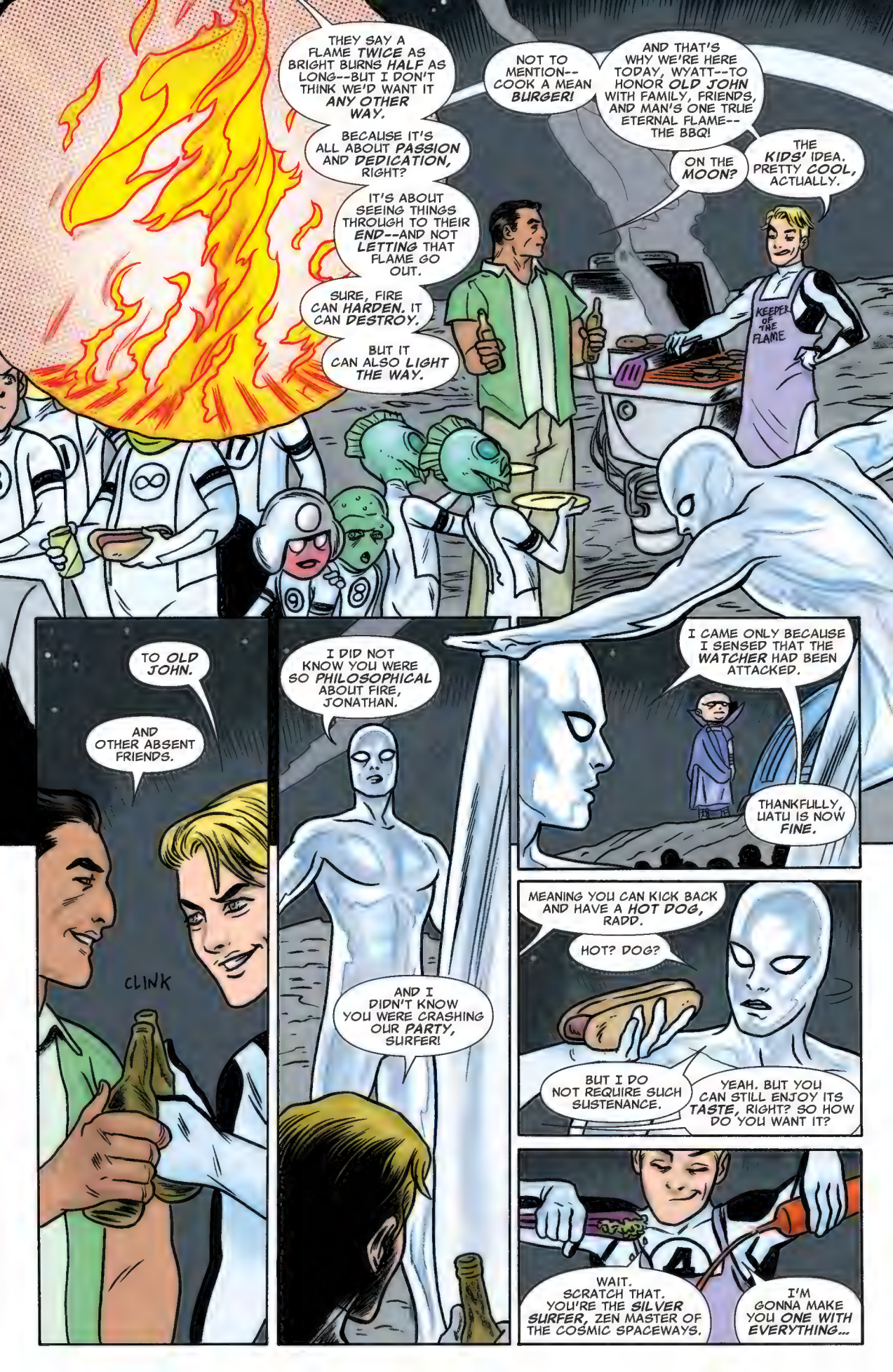
ASCH! DOSTA! DUIÁLILAN.
SAY IT TO *THEM*, DOOM, SAY IT TO YOUR PEOPLE.

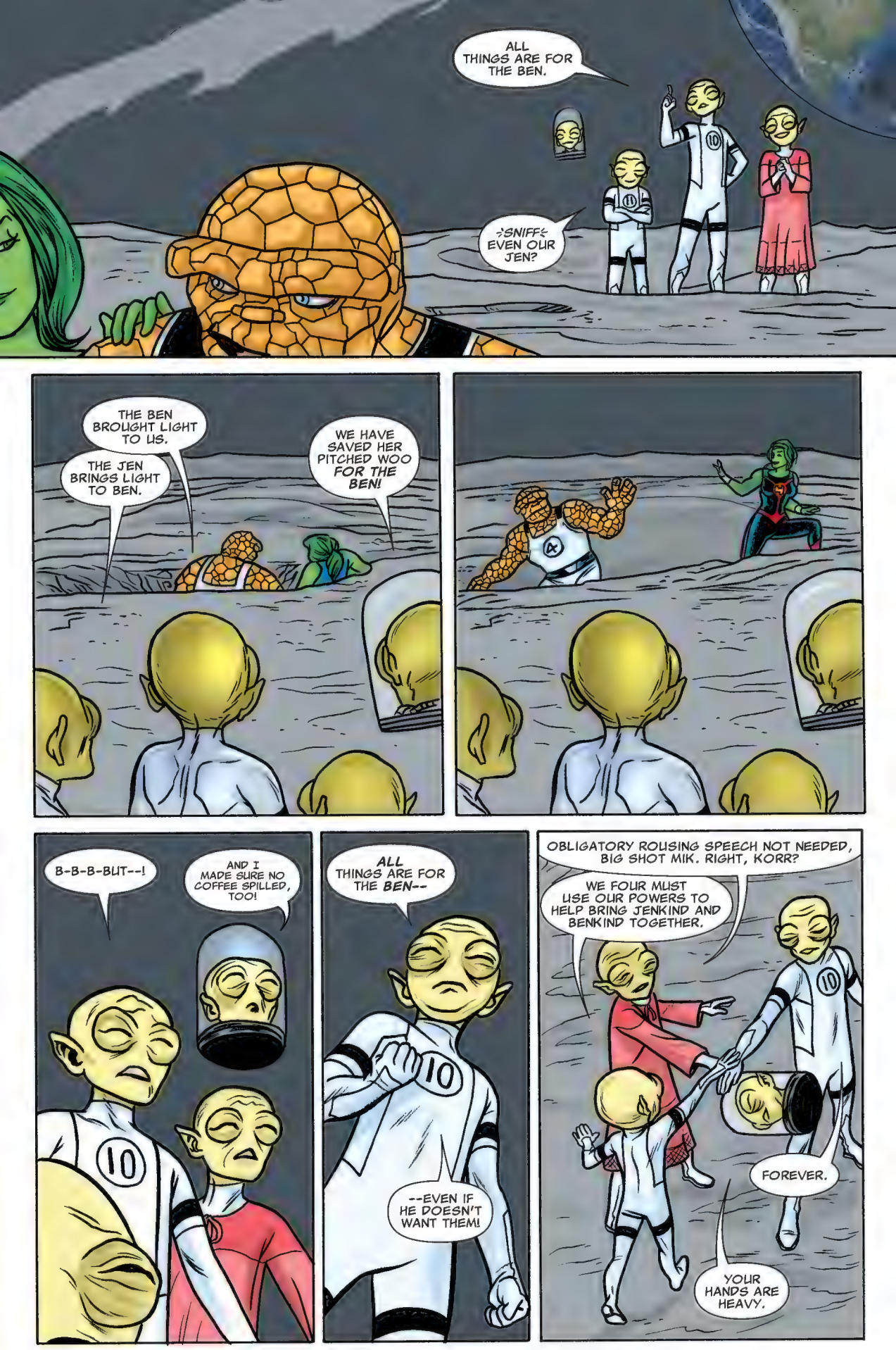
DUIÁLILAN. DUIÁLILAN.
REMEMBER THIS DAY. NO MATTER WHAT HE MIGHT SAY OR DO, THIS MOMENT TOOK PLACE.

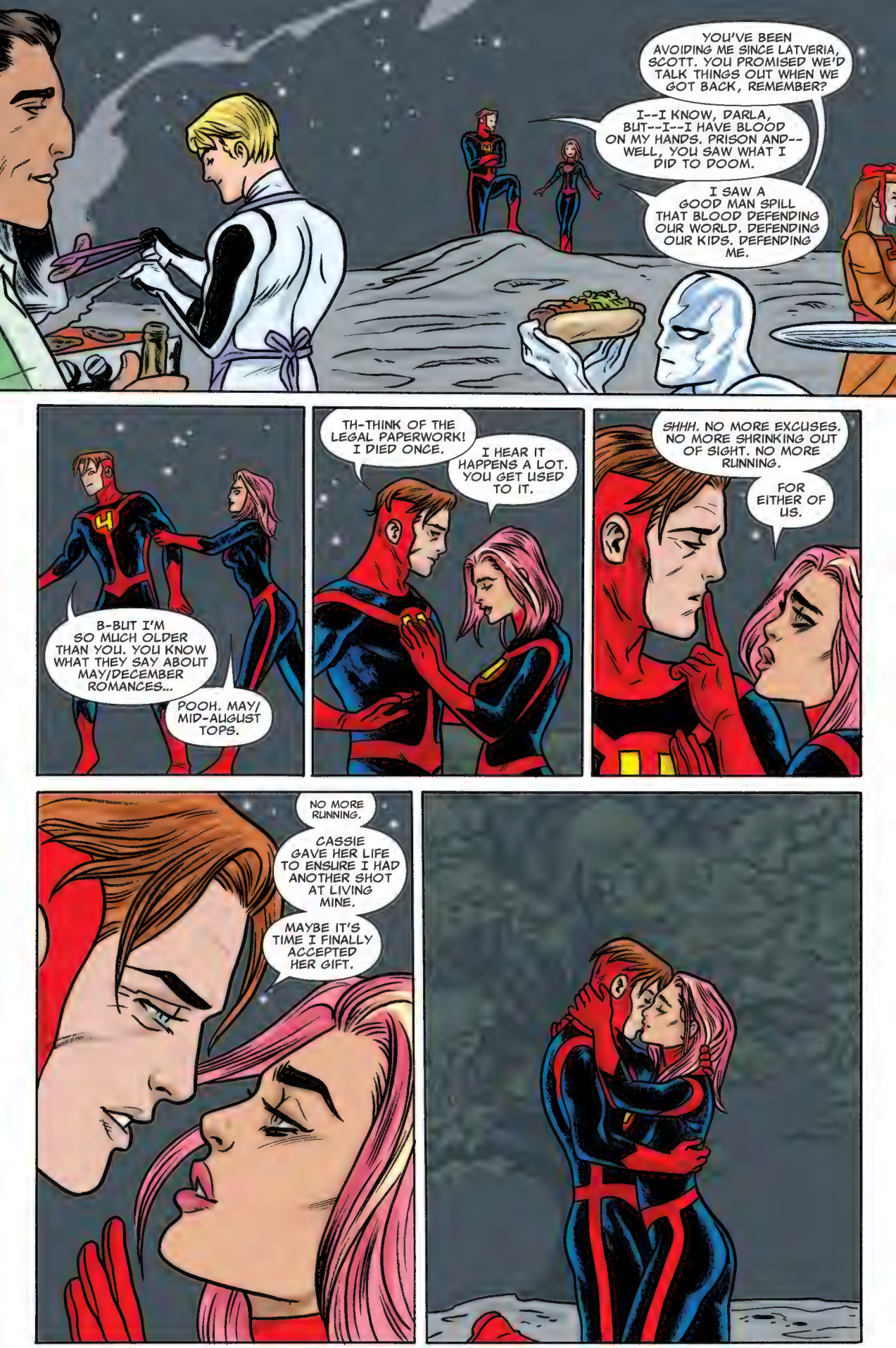
ONE LAST THING, DOOM:
RICHARDS AND HIS FAMILY CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, BUT IF YOU *EVER* COME AFTER ME OR MINE, I'LL FINISH THE JOB AND NO POWER ON EARTH WILL STAY MY HAND.

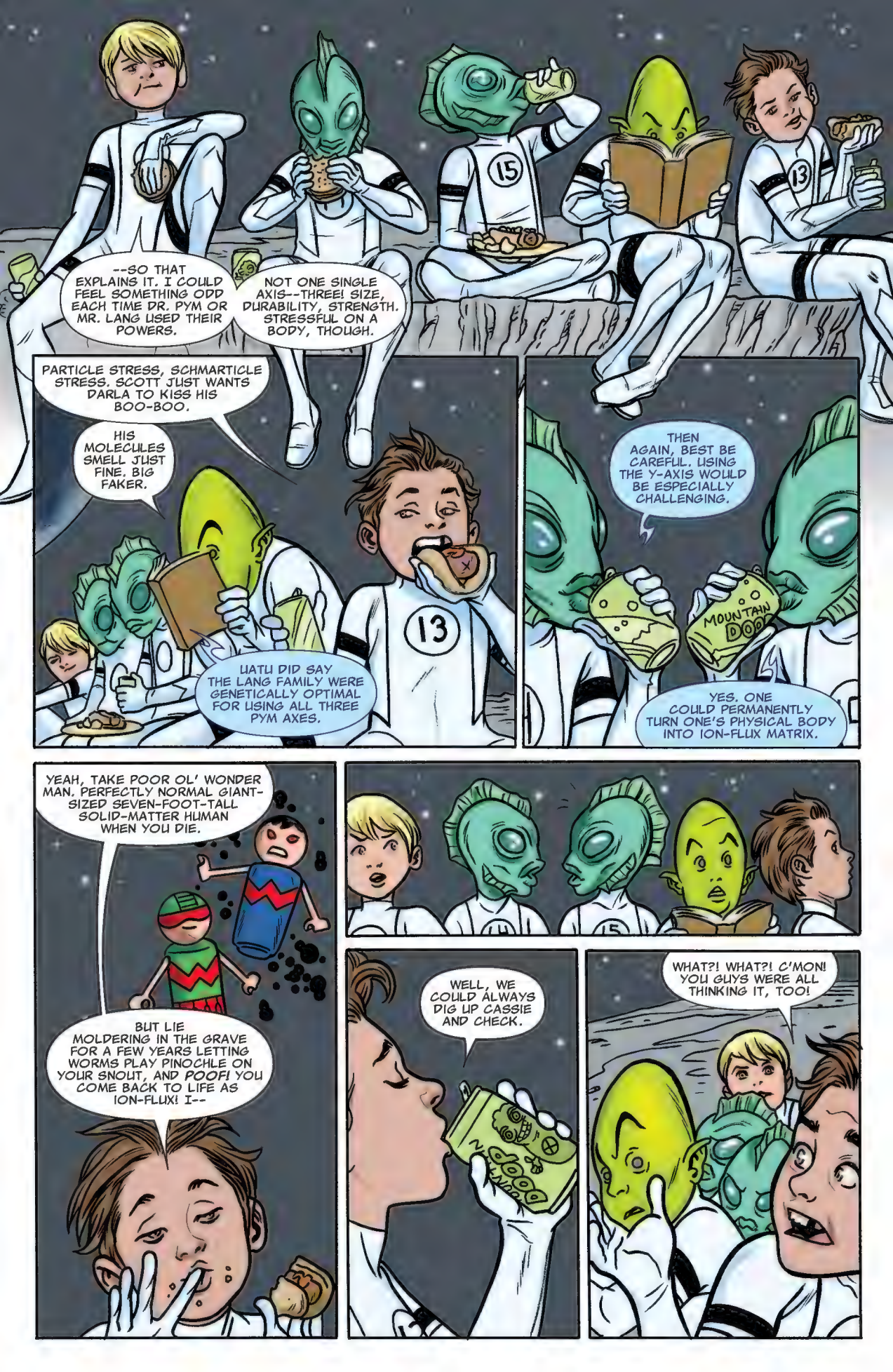

C'MON, UATU. LET'S GO HOME. IT'S OVER.
NOT QUITE, ANT.
CLICK
DIE, ANT!
NOOOOOOOOO!
JUST LIKE CASSIE. JUST. LIKE. CASSIE.
VALERIA! NOT YOU, NOT YOU!
UGH. WHAT HAPPENED, FRANKLIN? WHERE ARE WE?
LATVERIA. TELEPORTED RIGHT INTO A FIGHT. I WAS JUST FAST ENOUGH TO SHIELD YOU.
UM, OKAY... SO WHY'S UNCLE VIC ACTING LIKE I DIED? I'M RIGHT HERE.

JUST GIVING HIM THE SAME MENTAL TREATMENT I GAVE SCOTT IN *HIS* DREAMS. DOOM THINKS HE KILLED VALERIA THE WAY HE KILLED CASSIE.
PITY THE STATE DOOM'S IN WON'T LAST LONG. STILL, THESE MEMORIES WILL HAUNT HIM AS MUCH AS THOSE HE GAVE TO ME.
WHO WAS THAT RAVONNA REALLY, THEN?
SHE CLAIMED TO BE VAL WHEN SHE'S OLDER, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT. SHE HAD THE STINK OF DOOM ON HER.
THAT EXPLANATION WILL SUFFICE AS WELL AS ANY. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU... *WE*...HAVE FINALLY WON. IT'S OVER.
IT'S OKAY, UNCLE VICTOR. IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE, CAN'T YOU SEE ME? I'M FINE.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S A MAN NAMED VICTOR *IN* THAT SUIT OF ARMOR, VAL.
I DON'T THINK THERE EVER WAS. JUST AN EMPTY SHADOW OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN.
When kings the sword of justice first lay down,
They are no kings, though they possess the crown.
Titles are shadows, crowns are empty things,
The good of subjects is the end of kings.
--Daniel Defoe (1701)
WITH FOND APPRECIATION TO ALL OUR READERS-- THE END FOR NOW.
FF

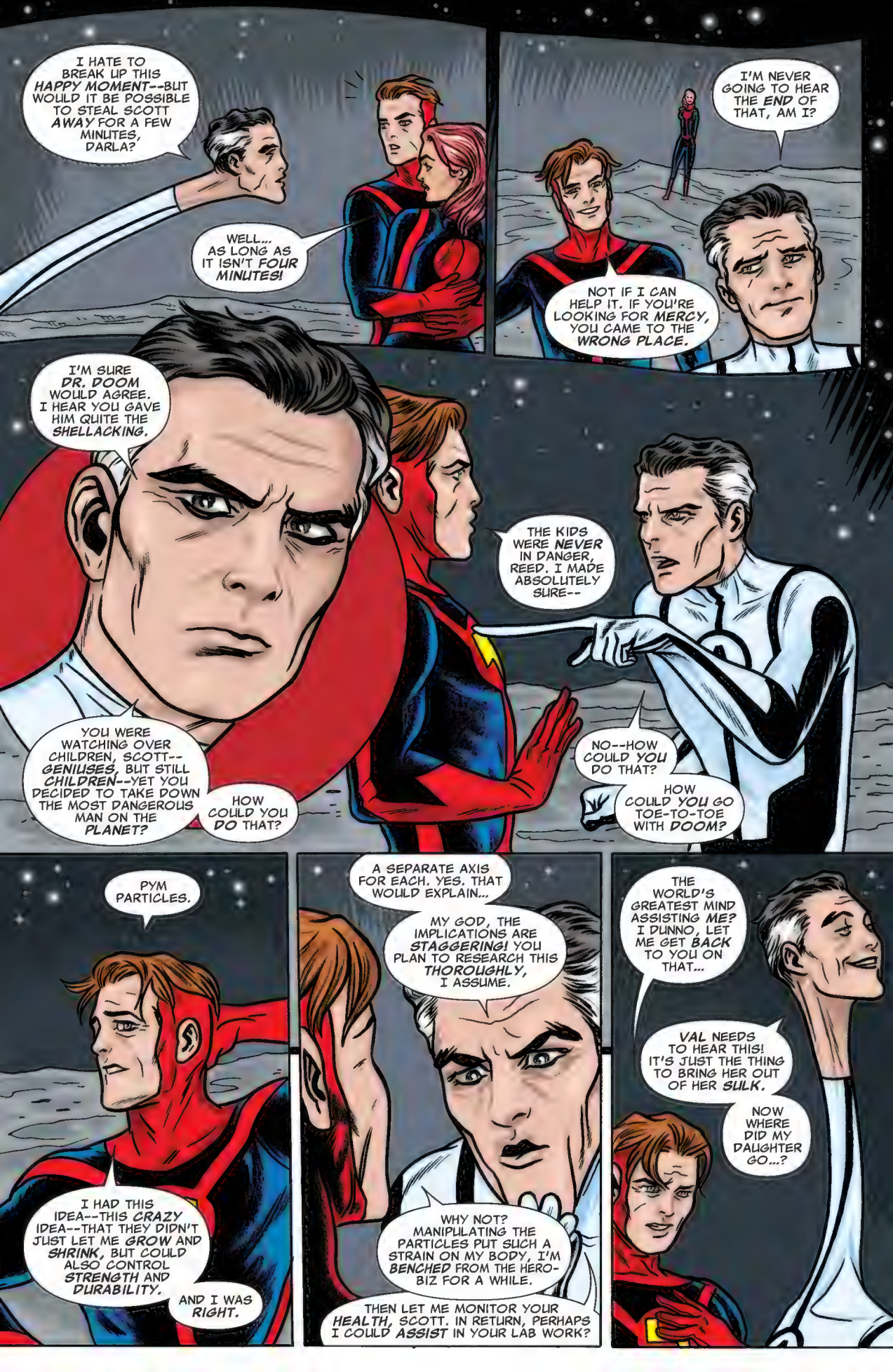

THEY SAY A FLAME TWICE AS BRIGHT BURNS HALF AS LONG--BUT I DON'T THINK WE'D WANT IT ANY OTHER WAY.
BECAUSE IT'S ALL ABOUT PASSION AND DEDICATION, RIGHT?
IT'S ABOUT SEEING THINGS THROUGH TO THEIR END--AND NOT LETTING THAT FLAME GO OUT.
SURE, FIRE CAN HARDEN. IT CAN DESTROY.
BUT IT CAN ALSO LIGHT THE WAY.
NOT TO MENTION--COOK A MEAN BURGER!
AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE TODAY, WYATT--TO HONOR OLD JOHN WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND MAN'S ONE TRUE ETERNAL FLAME--THE BBQ!
ON THE MOON?
THE KIDS' IDEA. PRETTY COOL, ACTUALLY.
KEEPER OF THE FLAME
TO OLD JOHN.
AND OTHER ABSENT FRIENDS.
CLINK
I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE SO PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT FIRE, JONATHAN.
AND I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE CRASHING OUR PARTY, SURFER!
I CAME ONLY BECAUSE I SENSED THAT THE WATCHER HAD BEEN ATTACKED.
THANKFULLY, UATU IS NOW FINE.
MEANING YOU CAN KICK BACK AND HAVE A HOT DOG, RADD.
HOT? DOG?
BUT I DO NOT REQUIRE SUCH SUSTENANCE.
YEAH. BUT YOU CAN STILL ENJOY ITS TASTE, RIGHT? SO HOW DO YOU WANT IT?
WAIT. SCRATCH THAT. YOU'RE THE SILVER SURFER, ZEN MASTER OF THE COSMIC SPACEWAYS.
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU ONE WITH EVERYTHING...

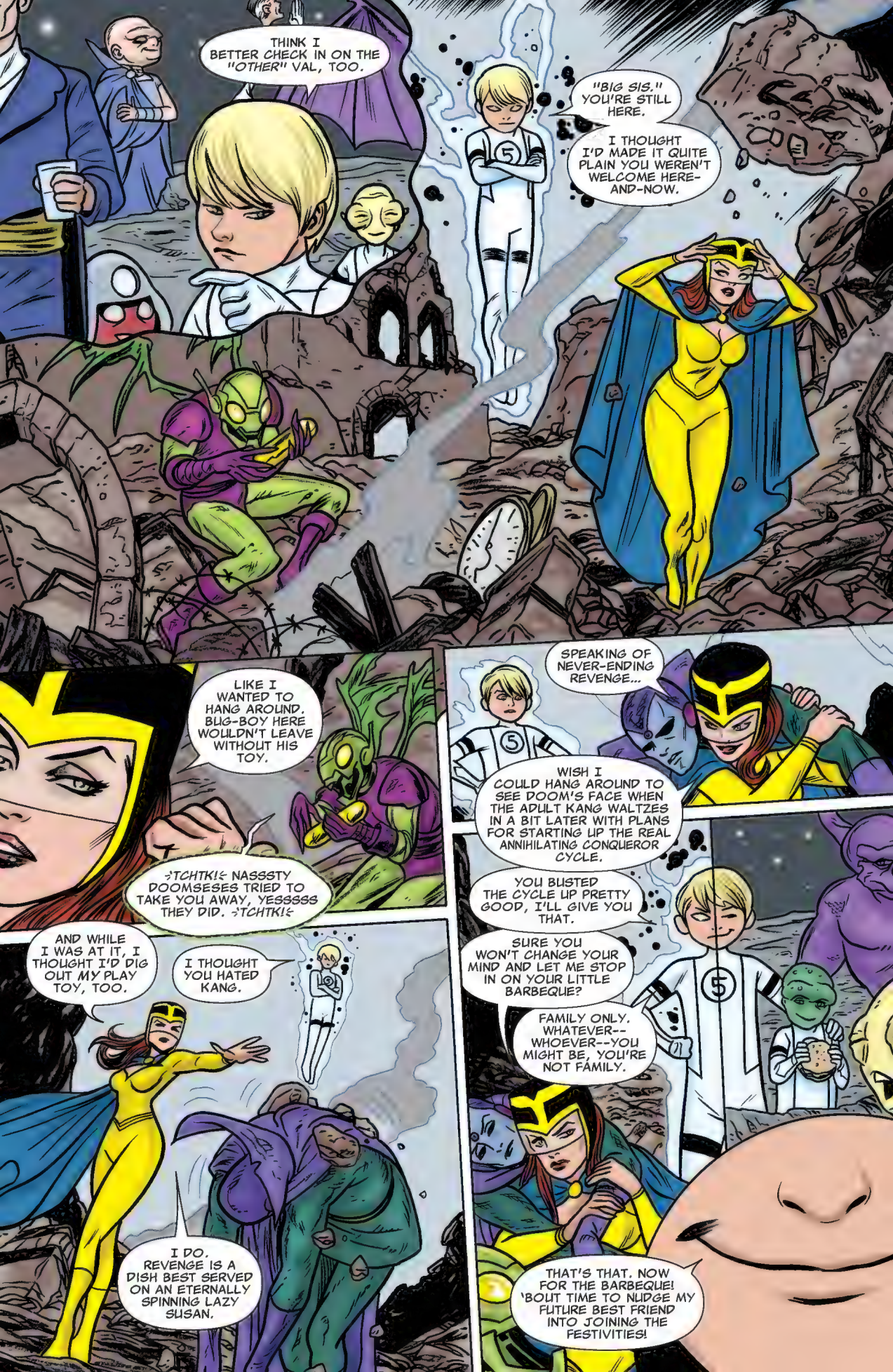

ALL THINGS ARE FOR THE BEN.
:SNIFF: EVEN OUR JEN?
THE BEN BROUGHT LIGHT TO US.
THE JEN BRINGS LIGHT TO BEN.
WE HAVE SAVED HER PITCHED WOO FOR THE BEN!
B-B-B-BUT--!
AND I MADE SURE NO COFFEE SPILLED, TOO!
ALL THINGS ARE FOR THE BEN--
--EVEN IF HE DOESN'T WANT THEM!
OBLIGATORY ROUSING SPEECH NOT NEEDED, BIG SHOT MIK. RIGHT, KORR?
WE FOUR MUST USE OUR POWERS TO HELP BRING JENKIND AND BENKIND TOGETHER.
FOREVER.
YOUR HANDS ARE HEAVY.

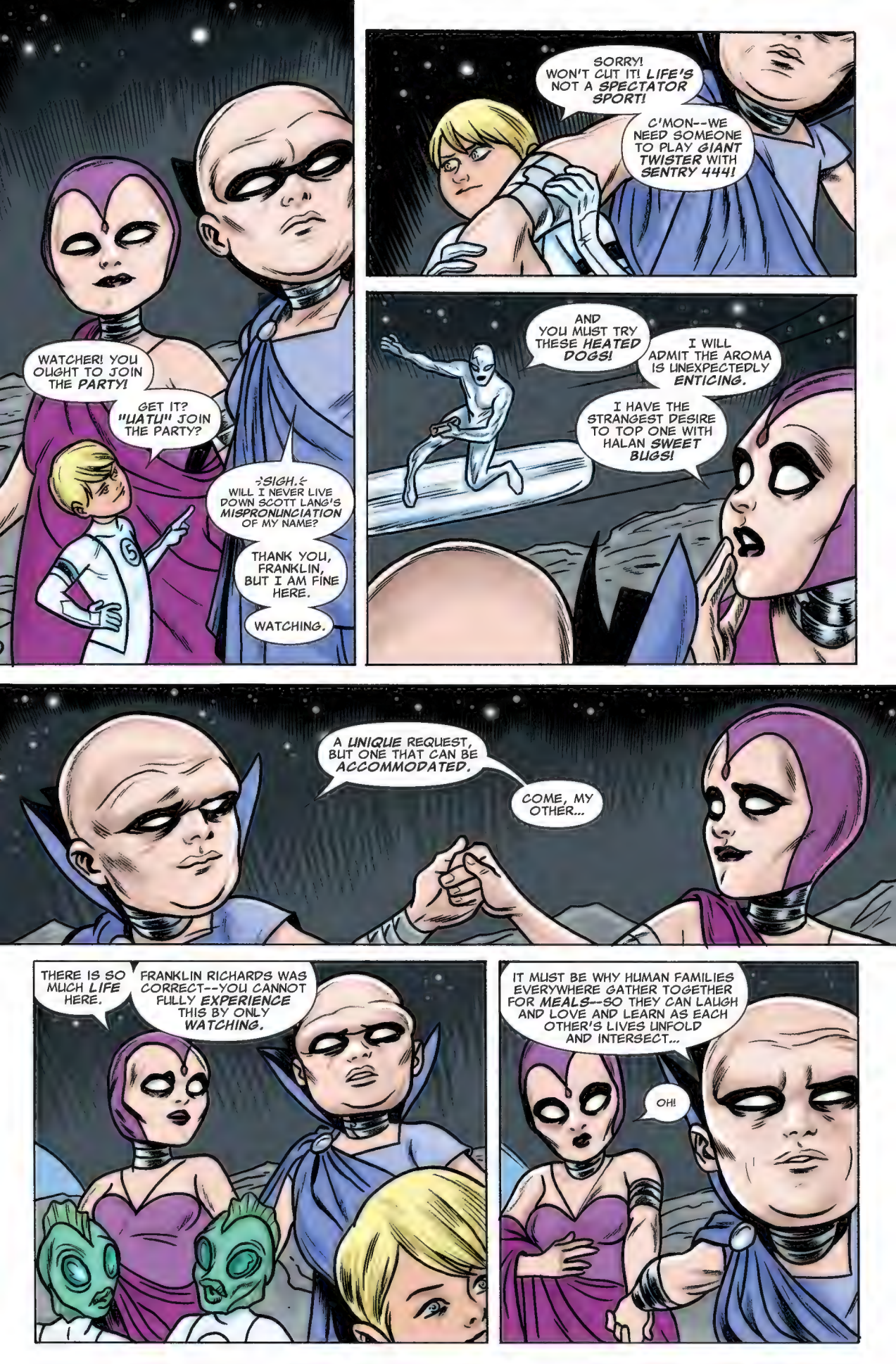

YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME SINCE LATVERIA, SCOTT. YOU PROMISED WE'D TALK THINGS OUT WHEN WE GOT BACK, REMEMBER?
I--I KNOW, DARLA, BUT--I--I HAVE BLOOD ON MY HANDS. PRISON AND--WELL, YOU SAW WHAT I DID TO DOOM.
I SAW A GOOD MAN SPILL THAT BLOOD DEFENDING OUR WORLD. DEFENDING OUR KIDS. DEFENDING ME.
B-BUT I'M SO MUCH OLDER THAN YOU. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT MAY/DECEMBER ROMANCES...
POOH. MAY/MID-AUGUST TOPS.
TH-THINK OF THE LEGAL PAPERWORK! I DIED ONCE.
I HEAR IT HAPPENS A LOT. YOU GET USED TO IT.
SHHH. NO MORE EXCUSES. NO MORE SHRINKING OUT OF SIGHT. NO MORE RUNNING.
FOR EITHER OF US.
NO MORE RUNNING.
CASSIE GAVE HER LIFE TO ENSURE I HAD ANOTHER SHOT AT LIVING MINE.
MAYBE IT'S TIME I FINALLY ACCEPTED HER GIFT.


--SO THAT EXPLAINS IT. I COULD FEEL SOMETHING ODD EACH TIME DR. PYM OR MR. LANG USED THEIR POWERS.
NOT ONE SINGLE AXIS--THREE! SIZE, DURABILITY, STRENGTH. STRESSFUL ON A BODY, THOUGH.
PARTICLE STRESS, SCHMARTICLE STRESS. SCOTT JUST WANTS DARLA TO KISS HIS BOO-BOO.
HIS MOLECULES SMELL JUST FINE. BIG FAKER.
UATU DID SAY THE LANG FAMILY WERE GENETICALLY OPTIMAL FOR USING ALL THREE PYM AXES.
THEN AGAIN, BEST BE CAREFUL. USING THE Y-AXIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY CHALLENGING.
YES. ONE COULD PERMANENTLY TURN ONE'S PHYSICAL BODY INTO ION-FLUX MATRIX.
YEAH, TAKE POOR OL' WONDER MAN. PERFECTLY NORMAL GIANT-SIZED SEVEN-FOOT-TALL SOLID-MATTER HUMAN WHEN YOU DIE.
BUT LIE MOLDERING IN THE GRAVE FOR A FEW YEARS LETTING WORMS PLAY PINOCHLE ON YOUR SNOUT, AND POOF! YOU COME BACK TO LIFE AS ION-FLUX! I--
WELL, WE COULD ALWAYS DIG UP CASSIE AND CHECK.
WHAT?! WHAT?! C'MON! YOU GUYS WERE ALL THINKING IT, TOO!

CHILDREN, WE KNOW WE MEANT YOUR STAY HERE AT THE FUTURE FOUNDATION TO ONLY BE A SHORT ONE--
--BUT PERHAPS IT'S BEST IF YOU REMAINED WITH YOUR FRIENDS A BIT LONGER.
BUT YOU PROMISED!
YIPE!
YES, BUT OUR PSI-MEDIUMS NOW WARN THAT THE DARK DAYS FORETOLD FOR OUR PEOPLE ARE ALMOST UPON US.
SAFER THAT YOU REMAIN APART, WELL-GUARDED HERE.
I DID NOT DON THE BATTLE REGALIA OF HOUSE BOLTAGON ONLY TO COWER AND HIDE, MOTHER.
I STAND WITH ATTILAN! I STAND WITH THE INHUMANS!
I'M INHUMAN, TOO!
DIDN'T YOU SAY A DAUGHTER'S PLACE IS WITH HER MOTHER? YOU DID YOU DID YOU DID!
-SIGH!- WE'LL TALK LATER, LUNA.
SEEMS YOUR DAUGHTER'S LITTLE GREEN FRIEND ISN'T THE ONLY IMPOSSIBLE CHILD AROUND HERE...


I HATE TO BREAK UP THIS HAPPY MOMENT--BUT WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO STEAL SCOTT AWAY FOR A FEW MINUTES, DARLA?
WELL... AS LONG AS IT ISN'T FOUR MINUTES!
I'M NEVER GOING TO HEAR THE END OF THAT, AM I?
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MERCY, YOU CAME TO THE WRONG PLACE.
I'M SURE DR. DOOM WOULD AGREE. I HEAR YOU GAVE HIM QUITE THE SHELLACKING.
THE KIDS WERE NEVER IN DANGER, REED. I MADE ABSOLUTELY SURE--
YOU WERE WATCHING OVER CHILDREN, SCOTT-- GENIUSES, BUT STILL CHILDREN--YET YOU DECIDED TO TAKE DOWN THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ON THE PLANET?
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?
NO--HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?
HOW COULD YOU GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH DOOM?
PYM PARTICLES.
I HAD THIS IDEA--THIS CRAZY IDEA--THAT THEY DIDN'T JUST LET ME GROW AND SHRINK, BUT COULD ALSO CONTROL STRENGTH AND DURABILITY.
AND I WAS RIGHT.
A SEPARATE AXIS FOR EACH. YES. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN...
MY GOD, THE IMPLICATIONS ARE STAGGERING! YOU PLAN TO RESEARCH THIS THOROUGHLY, I ASSUME.
WHY NOT? MANIPULATING THE PARTICLES PUT SUCH A STRAIN ON MY BODY, I'M BENCHED FROM THE HERO-BIZ FOR A WHILE.
THEN LET ME MONITOR YOUR HEALTH, SCOTT. IN RETURN, PERHAPS I COULD ASSIST IN YOUR LAB WORK?
THE WORLD'S GREATEST MIND ASSISTING ME? I DUNNO, LET ME GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT...
VAL NEEDS TO HEAR THIS! IT'S JUST THE THING TO BRING HER OUT OF HER SULK.
NOW WHERE DID MY DAUGHTER GO...?


THINK I BETTER CHECK IN ON THE "OTHER" VAL, TOO.
"BIG SIS," YOU'RE STILL HERE.
I THOUGHT I'D MADE IT QUITE PLAIN YOU WEREN'T WELCOME HERE-AND-NOW.
LIKE I WANTED TO HANG AROUND. BUG-BOY HERE WOULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT HIS TOY.
♪TCHTK!♫ NASSSTY DOOMSESES TRIED TO TAKE YOU AWAY, YESSSSS THEY DID. ♪TCHTK!♫
SPEAKING OF NEVER-ENDING REVENGE...
WISH I COULD HANG AROUND TO SEE DOOM'S FACE WHEN THE ADULT KANG WALTZES IN A BIT LATER WITH PLANS FOR STARTING UP THE REAL ANNIHILATING CONQUEROR CYCLE.
YOU BUSTED THE CYCLE UP PRETTY GOOD, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
SURE YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND AND LET ME STOP IN ON YOUR LITTLE BARBEQUE?
FAMILY ONLY. WHATEVER--WHOEVER--YOU MIGHT BE, YOU'RE NOT FAMILY.
AND WHILE I WAS AT IT, I THOUGHT I'D DIG OUT MY PLAY TOY, TOO.
I THOUGHT YOU HATED KANG.
I DO. REVENGE IS A DISH BEST SERVED ON AN ETERNALLY SPINNING LAZY SUSAN.
THAT'S THAT. NOW FOR THE BARBEQUE! 'BOUT TIME TO NUDGE MY FUTURE BEST FRIEND INTO JOINING THE FESTIVITIES!


WATCHER! YOU OUGHT TO JOIN THE PARTY!
GET IT? "UATU" JOIN THE PARTY?
:SIGH.: WILL I NEVER LIVE DOWN SCOTT LANG'S MISPRONUNCIATION OF MY NAME?
THANK YOU, FRANKLIN, BUT I AM FINE HERE.
WATCHING.
SORRY! WON'T CUT IT! LIFE'S NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!
C'MON--WE NEED SOMEONE TO PLAY GIANT TWISTER WITH SENTRY 444!
AND YOU MUST TRY THESE HEATED DOGS!
I WILL ADMIT THE AROMA IS UNEXPECTEDLY ENTICING.
I HAVE THE STRANGEST DESIRE TO TOP ONE WITH HALAN SWEET BUGS!
A UNIQUE REQUEST, BUT ONE THAT CAN BE ACCOMMODATED.
COME, MY OTHER...
THERE IS SO MUCH LIFE HERE.
FRANKLIN RICHARDS WAS CORRECT--YOU CANNOT FULLY EXPERIENCE THIS BY ONLY WATCHING.
IT MUST BE WHY HUMAN FAMILIES EVERYWHERE GATHER TOGETHER FOR MEALS--SO THEY CAN LAUGH AND LOVE AND LEARN AS EACH OTHER'S LIVES UNFOLD AND INTERSECT...
OH!

"...IT IS *ELEMENTAL* TO THEM.

"IT IS THE *FOUNDATION* OF THEIR *FUTURE*.

"IT IS... *FANTASTIC*."

HATU. IT IS ALSO...

...TIME.

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

When Joe Quesada first became Editor in Chief, I told him the same thing that I'd told outgoing EIC Bob Harras previously:

"At the point when FANTASTIC FOUR eventually changes editorial hands, if it doesn't wind up in my office, I'm going to start breaking fingers."

That's because, of all the various series that Marvel has put out over the years that I love, FANTASTIC FOUR is my favorite.

Things weren't always that way, though. Growing up, I started reading comics at the age of six. My first comic, a very safe choice, was an issue of *SUPERMAN.* That led me to be a steady reader of DC's super hero titles, particularly those ones edited by Julie Schwartz (though I didn't realize that connection at the time.) Even comics featuring the same characters but edited by other people felt "wrong" to me in some intangible way I couldn't quite define.

I sampled some of the Marvel books during those early days. I can remember specific issues of MARVEL TEAM-UP, CAPTAIN AMERICA and THOR, among others. But they didn't really appeal to me. The art was too harsh, too abrasive, and the storytelling style too frantic. I hated the fact that the last page of the story was often ruined by the cover—so if the cover image was Spider-Man about to fall into a volcano, he'd wind up at the end of the issue plummeting into the volcano, and you'd have to buy the next issue to find out how he survived—something I could never be certain I'd be able to do.

So for a number of years, I confined my comic book buying to only DC books. But (as will come as no surprise to anyone who knows me) I became fascinated by the history of the characters and the medium, so I sought out what few books there were at that time about the early days of comics. Among them were Jules Feiffer's THE GREAT COMIC BOOK HEROES, which reprinted a number of golden age stories, and Jim Steranko's HISTORY OF COMICS. But I skipped the chapters about the Marvel (then Timely) heroes, because I knew I didn't like them.

It was only months later, during the summer vacation from school, that I eventually grew bored enough one day to sit down and read the reprinted stories of Captain America, the Human Torch and the Sub-Mariner in Feiffer's book, and the chapters in Steranko's on Captain America and the other Timely heroes. And, turns out, I liked them. I particularly liked the one Human Torch story. So I thought I should maybe take another look at what Marvel had to offer.

There was a drugstore near my home that had a massive bin of comics. That's my memory of it, anyway—MASSIVE!—even though it likely wasn't as large in reality. All of them were Marvel books, and all of them were a number of months old. It was only years later that I worked out that these were all newsstand returns that were meant to have been destroyed, but that somebody had been purchasing off the back of the truck. At the time, a new comic cost 30 cents, but the drugstore was selling their books at five for a dollar.

I dug around and came up with three consecutive issues of FANTASTIC FOUR, #177-179. It was a fun two-part battle with the Frightful Four by Roy Thomas and George Perez, and an aftermath/cleanup issue by a scrambling Roy and Gerry Conway and Ron Wilson, who'd clearly been thrown in the deep end. Still, I enjoyed them all a great deal. I can remember reading them for the first time, stretched out on the living room floor, my legs dangling beneath the coffee table. I went back later and picked up three consecutive issues of MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS, #58-60, reprinting Stan Lee/Jack Kirby FF stories from several years earlier. And those I really liked!

So from there, I branched out, becoming a regular Marvel reader. I bought INVADERS, because it featured the Torch, and when an issue of CAPTAIN AMERICA reprinted an early Cap-Torch encounter, I started following that series as well. And I picked up MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, the Thing's other title, in which he'd team up with other Marvel heroes (he paired rather pointlessly with Mr. Fantastic in the first issue I read, but it also featured Skull the Slayer.) And a two-panel appearance of the FF in the first issue of AVENGERS was enough to get me to check SON OF ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS out of my local library, and become acquainted with the X-Men, Iron Man, Daredevil, Nick Fury, the Watcher and the Silver Surfer along with Earth's Mightiest Heroes.

(Before he died, my father would delight in giving me the business any time the subject of Marvel came up, as I had spent years as a child proclaiming that Marvel books stunk. He never got to see me work for Marvel, which would have amused him to no end.)

I have now edited FANTASTIC FOUR longer than any other person.

I surpassed Stan Lee's tenure as the overseer of Marvel's first family early in this current run. Overall, I've edited 152 regular issues (counting the 11 issues of FF that ran between #588 and #600), and that's not even including sister titles and spin-off books. While not every single one was a home run, I feel like I've done a pretty decent job guiding the destiny of this first and most important Marvel book. The Mark Waid/Mike Wieringo era is my absolute favorite of all the many titles and series I've edited. I got to put together Stan Lee's version of the final story of the quartet, and got to restore Jack Kirby's last unpublished issue of the magazine.

But it's time now to give somebody else a chance.

So, starting next month, I'll be passing the baton of this flagship series to editor Mark Paniccia. He's put together a fine new creative team in the persons of James Robinson and Leonard Kirk. If we've gotten our ducks in a row properly, then as usual there should be a preview of their first cover on the next page. I've read their first issue, and I think the book is in good hands. It'll be interesting being just a reader of FANTASTIC FOUR again.

But before I go, I feel that it's only right and proper that I thank the many creators who've lent their talents to FANTASTIC FOUR during my tenure. This isn't a complete list by any means, and I'm sure I'll have overlooked somebody crucial that'll have me smacking my head into a wall once this sees print.

So here's a last shout out to Carlos Pacheco, Rafael Marin, Jeph Loeb, Tom Grummett, Steve Rude, Karl Kesel and Mark Bagley (who were both there almost at the beginning and almost at the end), Stuart Immonen, Adam Warren, Keron Grant, Geoff Johns and Scott Kolins (who did a great THING limited series), Mark Waid and the late Mike Wieringo, Mark Buckingham, Casey Jones, Howard Porter, Paul Smith, Paco Medina, Skottie Young, J. Michael Straczynski. Mike McKone, the late Dwayne McDuffie, Paul Pope, Paul Pelletier, James Sturm and Guy Davis (who did the excellent UNSTABLE MOLECULES), Mark Millar, Bryan Hitch, Joe Ahearne, Joe Casey, Chris Weston, Paul Cornell, Horacio Domingues, Jonathan Hickman, Sean Chen, Dale Eaglesham, Neil Edwards, Steve Epting, Barry Kitson, Greg Tocchini, Carmine Di Giandomenico, Ming Doyle, Farel Dalrymple, Leinil Yu, Ron Garney, Mike Choi, Giuseppe Camuncoli, Ryan Stegman, Nick Dragotta, Juan Bobillo, Alan Davis, Matt Fraction, Mike Allred, Laura Allred, Lee Allred, Joe Quinones, Raff Ienco, Liquid!, the eternal Paul Mounts, Richard Starkings and his assorted Comicraftsmen, and Chris Eliopoulos and his VC Commandos, particularly Rus Wooton and Clayton Cowles.

It's been an honor to spend this time with you every month, and I hope we meet again!

Tom B
10/9/13

(See, Michael Incata? This is what happens when I start spieling!)

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can e-mail it to us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM. Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!

FANTASTIC FOUR

JAMES ROBINSON | LEONARD KIRK

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